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A DICTIONARY

OF MODERN

SLANG, CANT, AND VULGAR LANGUAGE.

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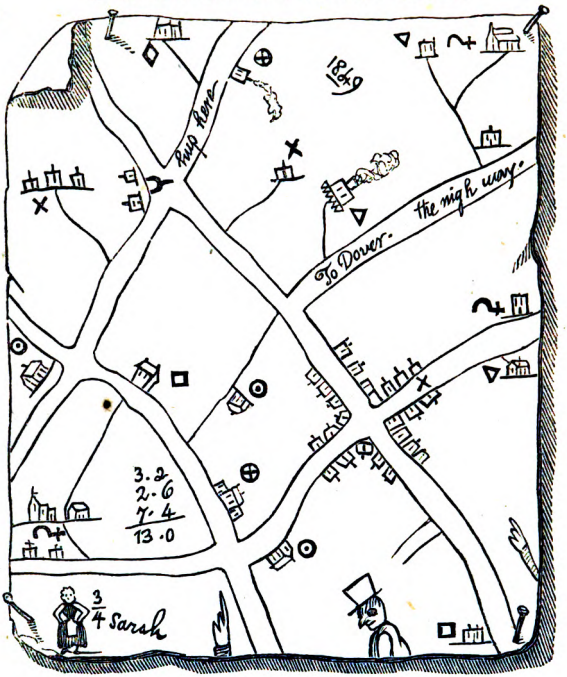
A CADGER'S MAP OF A BEGGING DISTRICT.



EXPLANATION OF THE HIEROGLYPHICS.

NO GOOD; too poor, and know too much.

STOP,—if you have what they want, they will buy. They are pretty "*fly*" (knowing).

GO IN THIS DIRECTION, it is better than the other road. Nothing that way.

BONE (good). Safe for a "cold tatur," if for nothing else. "*Cheese your patter*" (don't talk much) here.

COOPER'D (spoilt), by too many tramps calling there.

GAMMY (unfavourable), likely to have you taken up. Mind the dog.

FLUMMUXED (dangerous), sure of a month in *quod* (prison).

RELIGIOUS, but tidy on the whole.

See page xl.

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A DICTIONARY

OF

MODERN SLANG, CANT,

AND

VULGAR WORDS,

USED AT THE PRESENT DAY IN THE STREETS OF LONDON; THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE; THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT; THE DENS OF ST. GILES; AND THE PALACES OF ST. JAMES.

PRECEDED BY A

HISTORY OF CANT AND VULGAR LANGUAGE

FROM THE TIME OF HENRY VIII.; SHEWING ITS CONNECTION WITH THE

GIPSEY TONGUE;

WITH

GLOSSARIES OF TWO SECRET LANGUAGES,

SPOKEN BY THE WANDERING TRIBES OF LONDON, THE COSTERMONGERS, AND THE PATTERERS.

BY A LONDON ANTIQUARY.

"Rabble-charming words, which carry so much wild-fire wrapt up in them."—SOUTH.

LONDON:
JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN,
Antiquarian Bookseller,
PICCADILLY.

1859.

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PREFACE.

If any gentleman of a studious turn of mind, who may have acquired the habit of carrying pencils and note-books, would for one year reside in Monmouth Court, Seven Dials; six months in Orchard Street, Westminster; three months in Mint Street, Borough; and consent to undergo another three months on the extremely popular, but very much disliked treadmill (*vulgo* the "Everlasting Staircase"), finishing, I will propose, by a six months' tramp, in the character of a cadger and beggar, over England, I have not the least doubt but that he would be able to write an interesting work on the languages, secret and vulgar, of the lower orders.

In the matter of Slang, our studious friend would have to divide his time betwixt observation and research. Conversations on the outsides of omnibuses, on steamboat piers, or at railway termini, would demand his most attentive hearing, so would the knots of semi-decayed cabmen, standing about in bundles of worn-out great-coats and haybands, betwixt watering pails, and

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conversing in a dialect, every third word of which is without home or respectable relations. He would also have to station himself for hours near gatherings of ragged boys playing or fighting, but ever and anon contributing to the note-book a pure street term. He would have to "hang about" lobbies, mark the refined word-droppings of magniloquent flunkies, "run after" all the popular preachers, go to the Inns of Court, be up all night and about all day—in fact, be a ubiquitarian, with a note-book and pencil in hand.

As for research, he would have to turn over each page of our popular literature, wander through all the weekly serials, wade through the newspapers, fashionable and unfashionable, and subscribe to Mudie's, and scour the novels. This done, and if he has been an observant man, I will engage to say, that he has made a choice gathering, and that we may reasonably expect an interesting little book.

I give this outline of preparatory study to show the reason the task has never been undertaken before. People in the present chase after respectability dont care to turn blackguards, and exchange cards with the Whitechapel Pecker or the Sharp's Alley Chicken, for the sake of a few vulgar, although curious words; and we may rest assured that it is quite impossible to write any account of vulgar or low language, and remain

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seated on damask in one's own drawing room. But a fortunate circumstance attended the compiler of the present work, and he has neither been required to reside in Seven Dials, visit the treadmill, or wander over the country in the character of a vagabond or a cadger.

In collecting old ballads, penny histories, and other printed street narratives, as materials for a *History of Cheap or Popular Literature*, he frequently had occasion to purchase in Seven Dials and the Borough a few old songs or dying speeches, from the chaunters and patterers who abound in those neighbourhoods. With some of these men (their names would not in the least interest the reader, and would only serve the purpose of making this preface look like a vulgar page from the London Directory) an arrangement was made, that they should collect the cant and slang words used by the different wandering tribes of London and the country. Some of these chaunters are men of respectable education (although filling a vagabond's calling), and can write good hands, and express themselves fluently, if not with orthographical correctness. To prevent deception and mistakes, the words and phrases sent in were checked off by other chaunters and tramps. Assistance was also sought and obtained, through an intelligent printer in Seven Dials, from the costermongers in London, and the pedlers and huck-

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sters who traverse the country. In this manner the greater number of cant words were procured, very valuable help being continually derived from *Mayhew's London Labour and London Poor*, a work which had gone over much of the same ground. The slang and vulgar expressions were gleaned from every source which appeared to offer any materials; indeed the references attached to words in the dictionary frequently indicate the channels which afforded them.

Although in the Introduction I have divided Cant from Slang, and treated the subjects separately, yet in the dictionary I have only, in a few instances, pointed out which are slang, or which are cant terms. The task would have been a difficult one. Many words which were once cant are slang now. The words PRIG and COVE are instances in point. Once cant and secret terms, they are now only street vulgarisms.

The etymologies attempted are only given as contributions to the subject, and the derivation of no vulgar term is guaranteed. The origin of many street words will, perhaps, never be discovered, having commenced with a knot of illiterate persons, and spread amongst a public that cared not a fig for the history of the word, so long as it came to their tongues to give a vulgar piquancy to a joke, or relish to an exceedingly familiar conversation. The references and authorities

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given in italics frequently show only the direction or probable source of the etymology. The author, to avoid tedious verbiage, was obliged, in so small a work, to be curt in his notes and suggestions.

He has to explain also that a few words will, probably, be noticed in the slang and cant dictionary that are questionable as coming under either of those designations. These have been admitted because they were originally either vulgar terms, or the compiler had something novel to say concerning them. The makers of our large dictionaries have been exceedingly crotchety in their choice of what they considered respectable words. It is amusing to know that Richardson used the word HUMBUG to explain the sense of other words, but omitted it in the alphabetical arrangement as not sufficiently respectable and ancient. The word SLANG, too, he served in the same way.

Filthy and obscene words have been carefully excluded, although street-talk, unlicensed and unwritten, abounds in these.

> "Immodest words admit of no defence,
> For want of decency is want of sense."

It appears from the calculations of philologists, that there are 38,000 words in the English language, including derivations. I believe I have, for the first time, in consecutive order, added at least 3,000 words

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to the previous stock,—vulgar and often very objectionable, but still terms in every-day use, and employed by thousands. It is not generally known, that the polite Lord Chesterfield once desired Dr. Johnson to compile a Slang Dictionary; indeed, it was Chesterfield, some say, who first used the word HUMBUG. Words, like peculiar styles of dress, get into public favour, and come and go in fashion. When great favourites and universal they truly become household words, although generally considered slang, when their origin or antecedents are inquired into.

A few errors of the press, I am sorry to say, may be noticed; but, considering the novelty of the subject, and the fact that no fixed orthography of vulgar speech exists, it will, I hope, be deemed a not uninteresting essay on a new and very singular branch of human inquiry; for, as Mayhew remarks, "the whole subject of cant and slang is, to the philologist, replete with interest of the most profound character."

THE COMPILER WILL BE MUCH OBLIGED BY THE RECEIPT, THROUGH MR. CAMDEN HOTTEN, THE PUBLISHER, OF ANY CANT, SLANG, OR VULGAR WORDS NOT MENTIONED IN THE DICTIONARY. THE PROBABLE ORIGIN, OR ETYMOLOGY, OF ANY FASHIONABLE OR UNFASHIONABLE VULGARISM, WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED BY HIM WITH THANKS.

Piccadilly, June 30th, 1859.

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THE HISTORY OF CANT,

OR THE

SECRET LANGUAGE OF VAGABONDS.

CANT and SLANG are universal and world-wide.

Nearly every nation on the face of the globe, polite and barbarous, may be divided into two portions, the stationary and the wandering, the civilized and the uncivilized, the respectable and the scoundrel,—those who have fixed abodes and avail themselves of the refinements of civilization, and those who go from place to place picking up a precarious livelihood by petty sales, begging, or theft. This peculiarity is to be observed amongst the heathen tribes of the southern hemisphere, as well as the oldest and most refined countries of Europe. As Mayhew very pertinently remarks,

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"it would appear, that not only are all races divisible into wanderers and settlers, but that each civilized or settled tribe has generally some wandering horde intermingled with, and in a measure preying upon it." In South Africa, the naked and miserable Hottentots are pestered by the still more abject *Sonquas;* and it may be some satisfaction for us to know that our old enemies at the Cape, the Kafirs, are troubled with a tribe of rascals called *Fingoes,*—the former term, we are informed by travellers, signifying beggars, and the latter wanderers and outcasts. In South America, and among the islands of the Pacific, matters are pretty much the same. Sleek and fat rascals, with not much inclination towards honesty, fatten, or rather fasten, like body insects, upon other rascals, who would be equally sleek and fat but for their vagabond dependants. Luckily for respectable persons, however, vagabonds, both at home and abroad, show certain outward peculiarities which distinguish them from the great mass of lawful people off whom they feed and fatten. Personal observation, and a little research into books, enable me to mark these external traits. The wandering races are remarkable for the

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development of the bones of the face, as the jaws, cheek-bones, &c., high crowned, stubborn-shaped heads, quick restless eyes,* and hands nervously itching to be doing;‡ for their love of gambling, —staking their very existence upon a single cast; for sensuality of all kinds; *and for their use of a* CANT *language with which to conceal their designs and plunderings.*

The secret jargon, or rude speech, of the vagabonds who hang upon the Hottentots is termed *cuze-cat.* In Finland, the fellows who steal seal skins, pick the pockets of bear-skin overcoats, and talk Cant, are termed Lappes. In France, the secret language of highwaymen, housebreakers, and pickpockets is named *Argot.* The brigands and more romantic rascals of Spain, term their private tongue *Germania,* or Robbers' Language. *Rothwalsch,* or Red Italian, is synonymous with Cant and thieves' talk in Germany.

* "Swarms of vagabonds, whose eyes were so sharp as Lynx." —*Bullein's Simples and Surgery,* 1562.

‡ *Mayhew* has a curious idea upon the habitual restlessness of the nomadic tribes; *i.e.* "Whether it be that in the mere act of wandering, there is a greater determination of blood to the surface of the body, and consequently a less quantity sent to the brain."—*London Labour,* vol. 1, p. 2.

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And the crowds of lazy beggars that infest the streets of Naples and Rome, and the brigands that Albert Smith used to tell of, near Pompeii—stopping a railway train, and deliberately rifling the pockets and baggage of the passengers — their secret language is termed *Gergo.* In England, as we all know, it is called *cant*—often improperly *slang.*

Most nations, then, may boast, or rather lament, a vulgar tongue, formed principally from the national language, the hereditary property of thieves, tramps, and beggars,—the pests of civilized communities. The formation of these secret tongues vary, of course, with the circumstances surrounding the speakers. A writer in *Notes and Queries,** has well remarked, that "the investigation of the origin and principles of cant and slang language opens a curious field of enquiry, replete with considerable interest to the philologist and the philosopher. It affords a remarkable instance of lingual contrivance, which, without the introduction of much arbitrary matter has developed a system of communicating ideas, having all the advantages of a foreign language."

* Mr. Thos. Lawrence, who promised an *Etymological, Cant, and Slang Dictionary.* Where is the book?

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An inquiry in the Etymology of foreign vulgar secret tongues, and their analogy with that spoken in England, would be curious and interesting in the extreme, but neither present space nor personal acquirements permit of the task, and therefore the writer confines himself to a short account of the origin of English Cant.

The terms CANT and CANTING were doubtless derived from *chaunt* or *chaunting*,—the "whining tone, or modulation of voice adopted by beggars, with intent to coax, wheedle, or cajole by pretensions of wretchedness."* For the origin of the other application of the word CANT, pulpit hypocrisy, we are indebted to a pleasant page in the Spectator (No. 147);—"*Cant* is by some people derived from one Andrew Cant, who, they say, was a Presbyterian minister in some illiterate part of Scotland, who by exercise and use had obtained the faculty, alias gift, of talking in the pulpit in such a dialect that 'tis said he was not understood by none but his own congregation,—and not by all of them. Since Master *Cant's* time it has been under-

* *Richardson's Dictionary.*

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stood in a larger sense, and signifies all exclamations, whinings, unusual tones, and in fine, all praying and preaching like the unlearned of the Presbyterians." This anecdote is curious, if it is not correct. It was the custom in Addison's time to have a fling at the blue Presbyterians, and the mention made by *Whitelocke* of Andrew Cant, a fanatical Scotch preacher, and the squib upon the same worthy, in *Scotch Presbyterian Eloquence Displayed*, may probably have started the whimsical etymology. As far as we are concerned, however, in the present inquiry, CANT was derived from *chaunt*, a beggar's whine; CHAUNTING being the recognised term amongst beggars to this day for begging orations and street whinings; and CHAUNTER, a street talker and tramp, the very term still used amongst strollers and patterers. The use of the word CANT, amongst beggars, must certainly have commenced at a very early date, for we find "TO CANTE, to speake," in Harman's list of rogues' words in the year 1567; and Harrison about the same time,* in speaking of beggars and gipsies, says, "they have devised a

* *Description of England*, prefixed to *Holinshed's Chronicle.*

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language among themselves which they name CANTING, but others Pedlars' Frenche."

Now the word CANT in its old sense, and SLANG* in its modern application, although used by good writers and persons of education as synonymes, are in reality quite distinct and separate terms. CANT, apart from religious hypocrisy, refers to the old secret language, by allegory or distinct terms, of Gipsies, thieves, tramps, and beggars. SLANG represents that evanescent, vulgar language, ever changing with fashion and taste, which has principally come into vogue during the last seventy or eighty years, spoken by persons in every grade of life, rich and poor, honest and dishonest.‡ CANT is old; SLANG is always modern and changing. To illustrate the difference: a thief in *cant* language would term a horse a PRANCER or a PRAD,—while in *slang*, a man of

* The word SLANG, as will be seen in the chapter upon that subject, is purely a Gipsey term, although now-a-days it refers to low or vulgar language of any kind,—other than cant. SLANG and GIBBERISH in the Gipsey language are synonymous; but, as English adoptions, have meanings very different from that given to them in their original.

‡ The vulgar tongue consists of two parts; the first is the CANT Language; the second, those burlesque phrases, quaint allusions, and nick names for persons, things, and places, which from long uninterrupted usage, are made classical by prescription.—*Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, 1st edition, 1785.

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fashion would speak of it as a BIT OF BLOOD, or a SPANKER, or a NEAT TIT. A handkerchief, too, would be a BILLY, a FOGLE, or a KENT RAG, in the secret language of low characters,—whilst amongst vulgar persons, or those who aped their speech, it would be called a RAG, a WIPE, or a CLOUT. CANT was formed for purposes of secrecy. SLANG is indulged in from a desire to appear familiar with ~~with~~ life, gaiety, town-humour, and with the transient nick names and street jokes of the day. Both Cant and Slang, I am aware, are often huddled together as synonymes, but they are distinct terms, and as such should be used.

To the Gipsies, beggars and thieves are undoubtedly indebted for their cant language. The Gipsies landed in this country early in the reign of Henry the Eighth. They were at first treated as conjurers and magicians,—indeed they were hailed by the populace with as much applause as a company of English theatricals usually receive on arriving in a distant colony. They came here with all their old Eastern arts of palmistry, fortune-telling, doubling money by incantation and burial,—shreds of pagan idolatry; and they brought with them also the dis-

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honesty of the lower caste of Asiatics, and the vagabondism they had acquired since leaving their ancient dwelling places in the East, many centuries before. They possessed, also, a *language* quite distinct from anything that had been heard in England, and they claimed the title of Egyptians, and as such, when their thievish wandering propensities became a public nuisance, were cautioned and proscribed in a royal proclamation by Henry VIII.* The Gipsies were not long in the country before they found native imitators. Vagabondism is peculiarly catching. The idle, the vagrant, and the criminal outcasts of society, caught an idea from the so called Egyptians—soon corrupted to Gipsies. They learned from them how to tramp, sleep under hedges and trees, to tell fortunes, and find stolen property for a consideration,—frequently, as the saying runs, before it was lost. They also learned the value and application of a *secret tongue*, indeed all the accompaniments of maunding and imposture, except thieving and begging, which were well known in this country long before the Gipsies paid it a visit,—perhaps the only negative good that can be said in their favour.

* "Outlandish people calling themselves *Egyptians*." 1530.

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Harman, in the year 1567, wrote a singular, not to say droll book, entitled, *A Caveat for commen Cvrsetors, vulgarley called Vagabones, newly augmented and inlarged,* wherein the history and various descriptions of rogues and vagabonds are given, together with their canting tongue. This book, the earliest of the kind, gives the singular fact that within a dozen years after the landing of the Gipsies, companies of English vagrants were formed, places of meeting appointed, districts for plunder and begging operations marked out, and rules agreed to for their common management. In some cases Gipsies joined the English gangs, in others English vagrants joined the Gipsies. The fellowship was found convenient and profitable, as both parties were aliens to the laws and customs of the country, living in a great measure in the open air, apart from the lawful public, and often meeting each other on the same bye-path, or in the same retired valley;—but seldom intermarrying and entirely adopting each other's habits. The common people, too, soon began to consider them as of one family,—all rogues, and from Egypt. The secret language spoken by the Gipsies, principally Hindoo and extremely barbarous to

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English ears, was found incomprehensible and very difficult to learn. The Gipsies, also, found the same difficulty with the English language. A rude, rough, and most singular compromise was made and a mixture of Gipsey, old English, newly-coined words, and cribbings from any foreign, and therefore secret language, mixed and jumbled together, formed what has ever since been known as the CANTING LANGUAGE, or PEDLERS' FRENCH; or, during the past century, ST. GILES' GREEK.

Such was the origin of CANT; and in illustration of its blending with the Gipsey or Cingari tongue, dusky and Oriental from the sunny plains of Central Asia, I am enabled to give the accompanying list of Gipsey, and often Hindoo words, with their English adoptions.

Gipsey.	*English.*
BAMBOOZLE, to perplex, or mislead by hiding. *Mod. Gip.*	BAMBOOZLE, to delude, cheat, or make a fool of any one.
BOSH, rubbish, nonsense, offal. *Gipsey and Persian.*	BOSH, stupidity, foolishness.
CHEESE, thing, or article, "that's the CHEESE," or thing. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*	CHEESE, or CHEESY, a first-rate or very good article.
CHIVE, the tongue. *Gipsey.*	CHIVE, or CHIVEY, a shout, or loud-tongued.

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Gipsey.	*English.*
DADE, or DADI, a father. *Gipsey.*	DADDY, nursery term for father.
GAD, or GADSI, a wife. *Gipsey.*	GAD, a female scold; a woman who tramps over the country with a beggar or hawker.
GIBBERISH, the language of Gipsies, synonymous with SLANG. *Gipsey.*	GIBBERISH, rapid and unmeaning speech.
ISCHUR, SCHUR, or CHUR, a thief. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*	CUR, a mean, or dishonest man.
LAB, a word. *Gipsey.*	LOBS, words.
LOWE, or LOWR, money. *Gipsey and Wallachian.*	LOWRE, money. *Ancient Cant.*
MAMI, a grandmother. *Gipsey.*	MAMMY, or MAMMA, a mother, formerly sometimes used for grandmother.
MANG, or MAUNG, to beg. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*	MAUND, to beg.
MORT, a free woman,—one for common use amongst the male Gipsies, so appointed by Gipsey custom. *Gipsey.*	MORT, or MOTT, a prostitute.
MU, the mouth. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*	MOO, or MUN, the mouth.
MULL, to spoil or destroy. *Gipsey.*	MULL, to spoil, or bungle.
PAL, a brother. *Gipsey.*	PAL, a partner, or relation.
RIG, a performance. *Gipsey.*	RIG, a frolic, or "spree."
ROMANY, speech or language. *Spanish Gipsey.*	ROMANY, the Gipsey language.
ROME, or ROMM, a man. *Gipsey and Coptick.*	RUM, a good man, or thing. In the Robbers' language of Spain (partially Gipsey) RUM signifies a harlot.
ROMEE, a woman. *Gipsey.*	RUMY, a good woman or girl.

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Gipsey.	*English.*
SLANG, the language spoken by Gipsies. *Gipsey.*	SLANG, low, vulgar, unauthorized language.
TAWNO, little. *Gipsey.*	TANNY, TEENY, little.
TSCHIB, or JIBB, the tongue. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*	JIBB, the tongue; JABBER, quick-tongued, or fast talk.

Here then we have the remarkable fact of several words of pure Gipsey and Asiatic origin, going the round of Europe, passing into this country before the Reformation, and coming down to us through a hundred generations purely in the mouths of the people. They have seldom been written or used in books, and simply as vulgarisms have they reached our time. Only a few are now cant, and some are household words. The word JOCKEY, as applied to a dealer or rider of horses, came from the Gipsey, and means in that language a whip. Our standard dictionaries give, of course, none but conjectural etymologies. Another word, BAMBOOZLE, has been a sore difficulty with lexicographers. It is not in the old dictionaries, although extensively used in familiar or popular language for the last two centuries;—in fact the very word that Swift, Butler, L'Estrange, and Arbuthnot would pick out at once as a telling and most serviceable term. It is, as we have seen, from the Gipsey; and here I must

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state that it was Boucher who first drew attention to the fact, although in his remarks on the dusky tongue, he has made a ridiculous mistake by concluding it to be identical with its offspring, CANT. Other parallel instances, with but slight variations from the old Gipsey meanings, could be mentioned, but sufficient examples have been adduced to show that Marsden, the great Oriental scholar in the last century, when he declared before the Society of Antiquaries that the Cant of English thieves and beggars had nothing to do with the language spoken by the despised Gipsies, was in error. Had the Gipsey tongue been analyzed and committed to writing three centuries ago, there is every probability that many scores of words now in common use could be at once traced to its source. Instances continually occur now-a-days of street vulgarisms ascending to the drawing-rooms of respectable society. Why then may not the gipsey-vagabond alliance three centuries ago, have contributed their quota of common words to popular speech?

I FEEL CONFIDENT THERE IS A GIPSEY ELEMENT IN OUR BRITISH LANGUAGE HITHERTO UNRECOGNISED.

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"Indeed," says Moore the poet, in a humourous little book, *Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress*, 1819, "the Gipsey language, with the exception of such terms as relate to their own peculiar customs, differs but little from the regular Flash or Cant language." But this was magnifying the importance of the alliance. Moore knew nothing of the Gipsey tongue other than the few cant words put into the mouths of the beggars, in *Beaumont and Fletcher's Comedy of the Beggar's Bush*, and *Ben Jonson's Masque of the Gipsies Metamorphosed*,—hence his confounding Cant with Gipsey speech, and appealing to the Glossary of Cant for so called "Gipsey" words at the end of the *Life of Bamfylde Moore Carew*, to bear him out in his assertion. Still his remark bears much truth, and proof would have been found long ago if any scholar had taken the trouble to examine the "barbarous jargon of Cant," and to have compared it with Gipsey speech. As George Borrow, in his *Account of the Gipsies in Spain*, eloquently concludes his second volume, speaking of the connection of the Gipsies with Europeans :—"Yet from this temporary association were produced two results; European fraud became sharpened by coming into

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contact with Asiatic craft; whilst European tongues, by imperceptible degrees, became recruited with various words (some of them wonderfully expressive), many of which have long been stumbling-stocks to the philologist, who, whilst stigmatizing them as words of mere vulgar invention, or of unknown origin, has been far from dreaming that a little more research or reflection would have proved their affinity to the Sclavonic, Persian, or Romaic, or perhaps to the mysterious object of his veneration, the Sanscrit, the sacred tongue of the palm-covered regions of Ind; words originally introduced into Europe by objects too miserable to occupy for a moment his lettered attention,—the despised denizens of the tents of Roma."

But the Gipsies, their speech, their character—bad enough as all the world testifies,—their history and their religious belief, have been totally disregarded, and their poor persons buffeted and jostled about until it is a wonder that any trace of origin or national speech exists in them. On the continent they received better attention at the hands of learned men. Their language was taken down, their history traced, and their extraordinary

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customs and practice of living in the open air, and eating raw or putrid meat explained. They eat reptiles and told fortunes, because they had learnt it through their forefathers centuries back in Hindostan, and they devoured carrion because the Hindoo proverb—"*that which God kills, is better than that killed by man,*"*—was still in their remembrance. Grellman, a learned German, was their principal historian, and to him we are almost entirely indebted for the little we know of their language.‡

GIPSEY then started, and partially merged into CANT, and the old story told by Harrison and others, that the first inventor of canting was hanged for his pains, would seem to be a fable, for jargon as it is, it was, doubtless, of gradual formation, like all other languages or systems of speech. The Gipsies at the present day all know the *old cant* words, as well as their own tongue,—or rather what remains of it, for, as Borrow states, "the dialect of the English Gipsies is mixed with English

* This very proverb was mentioned by a young Gipsey to *Crabb*, a few years ago.—*Gipsies' Advocate*, p. 14.

‡ I except, of course, the numerous writers who have followed Grellman, and based their researches upon his labours.

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words."* Those of the tribe who frequent fairs, and mix with English tramps, readily learn the new words, as they are adopted by what Harman calls, "the fraternity of vagabonds." Indeed, the old CANT is a common language to vagrants of all descriptions and origin scattered over the British Isles.

Ancient English CANT has considerably altered since the first dictionary was compiled by Harman, in 1567. A great many words are unknown in the present tramps' and thieves' vernacular. Some of them, however, bear still their old definitions, while others have adopted fresh meanings,—to escape detection, I suppose. "ABRAHAM MAN" is yet seen in our modern SHAM-ABRAHAM, or PLAY THE OLD SOLDIER, *i.e.*, to fein sickness or distress. "AUTUM" is still a church or chapel amongst Gipsies; and "BECK," a constable, is our modern cant and slang BEEK, a policeman or magistrate. "BENE," or BONE, stands for good in Seven Dials, and the back streets of Westminster; and "BOWSE" is our modern BOOZE, to drink or fuddle. A "BOWSING KEN" was the old cant term for a

* *Gipsies of Spain*, vol. 1, p. 18.

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public house, and BOOZING KEN, in modern cant, has precisely the same meaning. "BUFE" was then the term for a dog, now it is BUFFER,—frequently applied to men. "CASSAN" is both old and modern cant for cheese; the same may be said of "CHATTES" or CHATTS, the gallows. "COFE," or COVE, is still the vulgar synonym for a man. "DRAWERS" was hose, or "hosen,"—now applied to the lining for trousers. "DUDES" was cant for clothes, we now say DUDDS. "FLAG" is still a fourpenny piece; and "FYLCHE" means to rob. "KEN" is a house, and "LICK" means to thrash; "PRANCER" is yet known amongst rogues as a horse, and to "PRIG," amongst high and low, is to steal. Three centuries ago, if one beggar said anything disagreeable to another, the person annoyed would say "STOW YOU," or hold your peace; low people now say STOW IT, equivalent to "be quiet." "TRINE" is still to hang; "WYN" yet stands for a penny. And many other words, as will be seen in the glossary, still retain their ancient meaning.

As specimens of those words which have altered their original cant signification, I may instance "CHETE," now written CHEAT. CHETE was in

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ancient cant what *Chop* is in the Canton-Chinese, —an almost inseparable adjunct. Everything was termed a CHETE, and qualified by a substantive adjective, which showed what kind of a CHETE was meant; for instance, "CRASHING CHETES" were teeth; a "MOFFLING CHETE," a napkin; a "GRUNTING CHETE," a pig, &c., &c. CHEAT now a-days means to defraud or swindle, and lexicographers have tortured etymology for an original—but without success. *Escheats* and *escheatours* have been named, but with great doubts; indeed, Steevens, the learned commentator of Shakespere, acknowledged that he "did not recollect to have met with the word *cheat* in our ancient writers."* CHEAT to defraud, then, is no other than an old cant term, somewhat altered in its meaning,‡ and as such it should be described in the next Etymological Dictionary. Another instance of a change in the meaning of the old cant, but the retention of the word, is seen in "CLY," formerly to take or steal, now a pocket,—remembering a certain class of low characters, a curious

* *Shakes.* Hen. IV., part 2, act ii, scene 4.

‡ It is easy to see how cheat became synonymous with fraud, when we remember that it was one of the most common words of the greatest class of cheats in the country.

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connexion between the two meanings will be discovered. "MAKE" was a halfpenny, we now say MAG, — MAKE being modern cant for to rob. "MILLING" stood for stealing, it is now a pugilistic term for fighting or beating. "NAB" was a head, —low people now say NOB, the former meaning in modern cant, to steal or seize. "PEK" was meat, — we still say, PECKISH, when hungry. "PRYGGES, *dronken Tinkers or beastly people*," as old Harman wrote, would scarcely be understood now; a PRIG, in the XIXth century, is a pick-pocket or thief. "QUIER," or QUEER, like *cheat*, was a very common prefix; and meant bad or wicked,— it now means odd, curious, or strange; but to the ancient cant we are indebted for the word, which etymologists should remember. "ROME," or RUM, formerly meant good, or of the first quality, and was extensively used like *cheat* and *queer*,—indeed as an adjective, it was the opposite of the latter. RUM now means curious, and is synonymous with queer, thus,—a "RUMMY old fellow," or a "QUEER old man." Here again we see the origin of an every day word, scouted by lexicographers and snubbed by respectable persons, but still a word of frequent and popular use. "YANNAM" meant

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bread, PANNUM is the word now. Other instances could be pointed out, but they will be observed in the Glossary.

Several words are entirely obsolete. "ALYBBEG" no longer means a bed, nor "ASKEW" a cup. "BOOGET," now-a-days, would not be understood for a basket,—although we have the word bucket; neither would "GAN" pass current for mouth. FULLAMS was the old cant term for false or loaded dice, and although used by Shakespere in this sense, is now unknown and obsolete. Indeed, as Tom Moore somewhere remarks, the present Greeks of St. Giles, themselves, would be thoroughly puzzled by many of the ancient canting songs,—taking for example, the first verse of an old favourite:

Bing out, bien Morts, and toure and toure,
Bing out, bien Morts, and toure;
For all your duds are bing'd awast;
The bien cove hath the loure.*

But I think I cannot do better than present to the reader at once an entire copy of the first Canting Dictionary ever compiled. As before mentioned, it was the work of one Thos. Harman,

* Which, literally translated, means:

Go out, good girls, and look and see,
Go out, good girls, and see;
For all your clothes are carried away,
And the good man has the money.

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a gentleman who lived in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Some writers have remarked that Deckar * was the first to compile a Dictionary of the vagabonds' tongue; whilst Borrow,‡ and Moore, the poet, have stated that Richard Head performed that service in his *Life of an English Rogue*, published in the year 1680. All these statements are equally incorrect, for the first attempt was made more than a century before the latter work was issued. The quaint spelling and old fashioned phraseology are preserved, and the reader will quickly detect many vulgar street words, old acquaintances, dressed in antique garb.§

ABRAHAM-MEN, be those that fayn themselves to have beene mad, and have bene kept either in Bethelem, or in some other pryson a good time.

ALYBBEG, a bedde.

ASKEW, a cuppe.

AUTEM, a churche.

AUTEM MORTES, maried wemen as chaste as a cowe.

* Who wrote about the year 1640.

‡ *Gipsies of Spain*, vol. 1, p. 18. Borrow further commits himself by remarking that "Head's Vocabulary has always been accepted as the speech of the English Gipsies." Nothing of the kind. Head professed to have lived with the Gipsies, but in reality filched his words from *Decker* and *Brome*.

§ The *modern* meanings of a few of the old cant words are giv en in brackets.

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BAUDYE BASKETS, bee women who goe with baskets and capcases on their armes, wherein they have laces, pinnes, nedles, whyte inkel, and round sylke gyrdels of all colours.

BECK [Beek], a constable.

BELLY-CHETE, apron.

BENE, good. *Benar*, better.

BENSHIP, very good.

BLETING CHETE, a calfe or sheepe.

BOOGET, a travelling tinker's baskete.

BORDE, a shilling.

BOUNG, a purse.

BOWSE, drink.

BOWSING-KEN, a alehouse.

BUFE [buffer, a man], a dogge.

BYNGE A WASTE, go you hence.

CACKLING-CHETE, a coke [cock], or capon.

CASSAN [cassam], cheese.

CASTERS, a cloake.

CATETH, "the vpright Cofe *cateth* to the Roge" [probably a shortening or misprint for *Canteth*].

CHATTES, the gallowes.

CHETE [see what has been previously said about this word].

CLY [a pocket], to take, receive, or have.

COFE [cove] a person.

COMMISSION [mish]. a shirt.

COUNTERFET CRANKE, these that do counterfet the Cranke be yong knaves and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the falling sicknes.

CRANKE [cranky, foolish], falling evil [or wasting sickness].

CRASHING-CHETES, teeth.

CUFFEN, a manne [man].

DARKEMANS, the night.

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DELL, a yonge wench.

DEWSE-A-VYLE, the countrey.

DOCK, to deflower.

DOXES, harlots.

DRAWERS, hosen.

DUDES [or dudds], clothes.

FAMBLES, handes.

FAMBLING-CHETE, a ring on one's hand.

FLAGG, a groat.

FRATER, a beggar wyth a false paper.

FRESHE-WATER-MARINERS, these kinde of caterpillers counterfet great losses on the sea:—their shippes were drowned in the playne of Salisbury.

FYLCHE, to robbe; *Fylch-man* [a robber].

GAGE, a quart-pot.

GAN, a mouth.

GENTRY COFE, a noble or gentle man.

GENTRY-COFES-KEN, a noble or gentle man's house.

GENTRY MORT, noble or gentle woman.

GERRY, excrement.

GLASYERS, eyes.

GLYMMAR, fyer.

GRANNAM, corne.

GRUNTING-CHETE, a pygge.

GYB, a writing.

GYGER [Jigger], a dore.

HEARING-CHETES, eares.

JARKE, a seale.

JARKEMAN, one who make writings and set seales for [counterfeit] licences and pasports.

KEN, a house.

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KYNCHEN CO [or *Cove*], a young boye trained up like a "*Kynching Morte.*"

KYNCHING MORTE, is a little gyrle, carried at their mothers' backe in a slate, or sheete, who bringes them up sauagely.

LAG, water.

LAG OF DUDES, a bucke [or basket] of clothes.

LAGE, to washe.

LAP, butter, mylke, or whey.

LIGHTMANS, the day.

LOWING-CHETE, a cowe.

LOWRE, money.

LUBBARES,—"Sturdy *Lubbares*," country bumpkins, or men of a low degree.

LYB-BEG, a bed.

LYCKE [Lick], to beate.

LYP, to lie down.

LYPKEN, a house to lye in.

MAKE [Mag], a halfpenny.

MARGERI PRATER, a hen.

MILLING, to steale [by sending a child in at the window].

MOFLING-CHETE, a napkin.

MORTES [Motts], harlots.

MYLL, to robbe.

MYNT, gold.

NAB [Nob], a heade.

NABCHET, a hat or cap.

NASE, dronken.

NOSEGENT, a nunne.

PALLYARD, a borne beggar [who counterfeits sickness, or incurable sores. They are mostly Welchmen, Harman says].

PARAM, mylke.

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PATRICO, a priest.

PATRICOS KINCHEN, a pygge [a satirical hit at the church, *Patrico* meaning a parson or priest, and *Kinchen* his little boy or girl].

PEK [Peckish], meat.

POPPELARS, porrage.

PRAT, a buttocke.

PRATLING-CHETE, a toung.

PRAUNCER, a horse.

PRIGGER OF PRAUNCERS, be horse stealers, for to prigge signifieth in their language to steale, and a Prauncer is a horse, so being put together, the matter was playn. [Such writes old Thomas Harman, who concludes his description of this order of "Pryggers," by very quietly saying, "I had the best gelding stolen out of my pasture, that I had amongst others, whyle this book was first a printing."]

PRYGGES, dronken Tinkers, or beastly people.

QUACKING-CHETE, a drake or duck.

QUAROMES, a body.

QUIER [queer], badde [see what has been previously said about this word].

QUYER CRAMP-RINGES, boltes or fetters.

QUIER CUFFIN, the iustice of peace.

QUYER-KYN, a pryson house.

RED SHANKE, a drake or ducke.

ROGER, a goose.

ROME, goode [curious, noted, or remarkable in any way. *Rum* is the modern orthography, but with a changed meaning].

ROME BOUSE [rum booze] wyne.

ROME MORT, the Queene [Elizabeth].

ROME VYLE [or Rum-ville], London.

RUFF PECK, baken [short bread, common in old times at farm houses].

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RUFFMANS, the woods or bushes.

SALOMON, a altar or masse.

SKYPPER, a barne.

SLATE, a sheete or shetes.

SMELLING CHETE, a nose.

SMELLING CHETE, a garden or orchard.

SNOWT FAYRE [said of a woman who has a pretty face or is comely].

STALL [to initiate a beggar or rogue into the rights and privileges of the canting order. Harman relates, that when an upright-man, or initiated, first-class rogue, "mete any beggar, whether he be sturdy or impotent, he will demand of him whether ever he was '*stalled to the roge*' or no. If he say he was, he will know of whom, and his name yt stalled him. And if he be not learnedly able to show him the whole circumstance thereof, he will spoyle him of his money, either of his best garment, if it be worth any money, and haue him to the bowsing ken: which is, to some typpling house next adjoyninge, and layth there to gage the best thing that he hath for twenty pence or two shillings: this man obeyeth for feare of beatinge. Then dooth this upright-man call for a gage of bowse, which is a quarte potte of drink, and powres the same vpon his peld pate, adding these words,—I, *G. P.* do stalle thee W. T. to the Roge, and that from henceforth it shall be lawfull for thee to cant, that is to aske or begge for thi liuing in al places." Something like this treatment is the popular idea of Freemasonry, and what schoolboys term "freeing."]

STAMPES, legges.

STAMPERS, shoes.

STAULING KEN, a house that will receyue stollen wares.

STAWLINGE-KENS, tippling houses.

STOW YOU [stow it], hold your peace.

STRIKE, to steale.

STROMMELL, strawe.

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SWADDER, or *Pedler* [a man who hawks goods].
THE HIGH PAD, the highway.
THE RUFFIAN CLY THEE, the devil take thee.
TOGEMANS [Toggs], a cloake.
TOGMAN, a coate.
TO BOWSE, to drinke.
TO CANTE, to speake.
TO CLY THE GERKE, to be whipped.
TO COUCH A HOGSHEAD, to lie down and slepe.
TO CUTTE, to say [*cut it* is modern cant for "be quiet"].
TO CUT BENE WHYDDS, to speake or give good words.
TO CUTTE QUYER WHYDDES, to giue euil words or euil language.
TO CUT BENLE, to speake gentle.
TO DUP YE GYGER [Jigger], to open the dore.
TO FYLCHE, to robbe.
TO HEUE A BOUGH, to robbe or rifle a boweth.
TO MAUNDE, to aske or require.
TO MILL A KEN, to robbe a house.
TO NYGLE, [coition].
TO NYP A BOUNG [Nip, to steal], to cut a purse.
TO SKOWER THE CRAMPRINGES, to weare boltes or fetters.
TO STALL, to make or ordain.
TO THE RUFFIAN, to the Devil.
TO TOWRE, to see.
TRYNING [Trine], hanging.
TYB OF THE BUTERY, a goose.
WALKING MORTE, womene [who pass for widows].
WAPPING, [coition].
WHYDDES, wordes.
WYN, penny.
YANNAM, bread.

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Turning our attention more to the Cant of modern times, in connexion with the old, we find that words have been drawn into the thieves' vocabulary from every conceivable source. Hard or infrequent words, vulgarly termed *crack-jaw*, or *jaw-breakers*, were very often used and considered as cant terms. And here it should be mentioned that at the present day the most inconsistent and far-fetched terms are often used for secret purposes, when they are known to be caviare to the million. It is really laughable to know that such words as, *incongruous, insipid, interloper, intriguing, indecorum, forestall, equip, hush, grapple,* &c., &c., were current cant words a century and a half ago; but such was the case, as any one may see in the *Dictionary of Canting Words,* at the end of *Bacchus and Venus,** 1737. They are inserted not as jokes or squibs, but as selections from the veritable pocket dictionaries of the Jack Shepherds and Dick Turpins of the day. If they were safely used as unknown and cabalistic terms amongst the

* This is a curious volume and is worth from one to two guineas. The Canting Dictionary was afterwards reprinted, word for word, with the title of *The Scoundrel's Dictionary,* in 1751. It was originally published, without date, about the year 1710 by B. E., under the title of a *Dictionary of the Canting Crew.*

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commonality, the fact would form a very curious illustration of the ignorance of our poor ancestors. One piece of information is conveyed to us, *i. e.*, that the "Knights" or "Gentlemen of the road," using these polite words in those days of highwaymen, were really well educated men,—which heretofore has always been a hard point of belief, notwithstanding old novels, and operas.

Amongst those cant words which have either altered their meaning, or have become extinct, I may cite LADY, formerly the cant for "a very crooked, deformed, and ill-shapen woman;" * and HARMAN, "a pair of stocks, or a constable." The former is a pleasant piece of satire, whilst the latter indicates a singular method of revenge. HARMAN was the first author who specially wrote against English vagabonds, and for his trouble his name became synonymous with a pair of stocks, and a policeman of the olden time.

Apart from the Gipsey element, we find that Cant abounds in terms from foreign languages, and that it exhibits the growth of most recognised and completely formed tongues,—the gathering of words from foreign sources. The Anglo-Norman,

* *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737.

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and the Anglo-Saxon; the Scotch; the French; the Spanish; the Italian; and even the classic languages of ancient Italy and Greece, have contributed to its list of words,—besides the various provincial dialects of England. Indeed, as Mayhew remarks, English Cant seems to be formed on the same basis as the ARGOT of the French, and the ROTH-SPRÆC of the Germans,—partly metaphorical, and partly by the introduction of such corrupted foreign terms as are likely to be unknown to the society amid which the cant speakers exist. ARGOT is the London thieves' word for their secret language,—it is, of course, from the French, but that matters not so long as it is incomprehensible to the police and the mob. DOMINÉ, a parson, is from the Latin; and DON, a clever fellow, has been filched from the Spanish. DONNA AND FEELES, a woman and children, is an odd mixture of Spanish and French; whilst DUDDS, the vulgar term for clothes, has been pilfered from the Gaelic. FEELE, a daughter, from the French; and FROW, a girl or wife, from the German—are common tramps' terms. So are GENT, silver, from the French *Argent;* and VIAL, a country town, also from the French. GIP, a college servant, very

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appropriately comes from the Greek, *Gups* (a wolf); and HORRID-HORN, a fool, from the Erse; and GLOAK, a man, from the Scotch. As stated before, the Dictionary will supply numerous other instances.

"There are several Hebrew terms in our cant language, obtained, it would appear, from the intercourse of the thieves with the Jew *fences* (receivers of stolen goods); many of the cant terms, again, are Sanscrit, got from the Gipsies; many Latin, got by the beggars from the Catholic prayers before the Reformation; and many, again, Italian, got from the wandering musicians and others; indeed the showmen have but lately introduced a number of Italian phrases into their cant language."* Speaking of the learned tongues, I may mention that precarious and abandoned as the vagabond's existence is, many persons of classical or refined education have from time to time joined the ranks, —occasionally from inclination, as in the popular instance of Bamfylde Moore Carew, but generally through indiscretion, and loss of character.† This

* Mayhew's *London Labour and London Poor*, Vol. iii., No. 43, Oct. 4th, 1851.

† *Mayhew* (vol. i., p. 217), speaks of a low lodging-house, "in

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will in some measure account for numerous classical and learned words figuring as cant terms in the vulgar dictionary.

In the early part of the last century, when highwaymen, from all accounts, were so plentiful, a great many new words were added to the canting vocabulary, whilst several old terms fell into disuse. CANT, for instance, as applied to thieves' talk, was supplanted by the word FLASH.

A singular feature, however, in vulgar language, is the retention and the revival of sterling old English words, long since laid up in ancient manuscripts, or the subject of dispute among learned antiquaries. Disraeli somewhere says "the purest source of *neology*, is in the revival of *old words*."

"Words that wise Bacon or brave Rawleigh spake,"

and Dr. Latham honours our subject by remarking that "the thieves of London are the conservators of Anglo-Saxonisms." Mayhew, too, in his interesting work, *London Labour and London Poor*, admits that many cant and slang phrases are

which there were at one time, five University men, three surgeons, and several sorts of broken down clerks." But old Harman's saying, that "a wylde Roge is he that is *borne* a roge," will perhaps explain this seeming anomaly.

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merely old English terms, which have become obsolete through the caprices of fashion." And the reader who looks into the dictionary of the vagabonds' lingo, will see at a glance that these gentlemen were quite correct, and that we are compelled to acknowledge the singular truth that a great many old words, once respectable, and in the mouths of kings and fine ladies, are now only so many signals for shrugs and shudders amongst exceedingly polite people. A Belgravian gentleman who had lost his watch or his pocket-handkerchief, would scarcely remark to his mamma that it had been BONED,—yet BONE, in old times, meant to steal amongst high and low. And a young lady living in the precincts of dingy, but aristocratic May-Fair, although in raptures with a Jenny Lind or a Ristori, hardly thinks of turning back in the box to inform Papa that they, Ristori or Lind, "made no BONES of it,"—yet BONES was a most respectable and well-to-do word, before it met with a change of circumstances. "A CRACK article," however first-rate, would, as far as speech is concerned, have greatly displeased Dr. Johnson and Mr. Walker,—yet both CRACK, in the sense of excellent, and CRACK UP, to boast or praise, were not

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considered vulgarisms in the time of Henry VIII. DODGE, a cunning trick, is from the Anglo-Saxon; and ancient nobles used to "get each other's DANDER UP" before appealing to their swords,—quite FLABERGASTING (also a respectable old word) the half score of lookers-on with the thumps and cuts of their heavy weapons. GALLAVANTING, waiting upon the ladies, was as polite in expression as in action; whilst a clergyman at Paule's Crosse, thought nothing of bidding a noisy hearer to "hold his GAB," or "shut up his GOB." GADDING, roaming about in an idle and trapesing manner, was used in an old translation of the Bible; and "to do anything GINGERLY" was to do it with great care. Persons of modern tastes will be shocked to know that the great Lord Bacon spoke of the lower part of a man's face as his GILLS.

Shakespere, or as the French say, "the divine William," also used many words which are now counted as dreadfully vulgar. "CLEAN gone," in the sense of out of sight, or entirely away; "you took me all A-MORT," or confounded me; "it won't FADGE," or suit, are terms taken at random from the great dramatist's works. A London costermonger, or inhabitant of the streets, in-

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stead of saying "I'll make him yield," or "give in," in a fight or contest, would say "I'll make him BUCKLE under." Shakespere, in his *Henry the Fourth* (Part 2, Act i., Scene 1) has the word, and Mr. Halliwell, one of the greatest and most industrious of living antiquaries, informs us, that "the commentators do not supply another example." How strange, then, that the Bard of Avon, and the Cockney costermongers, should be joint-partners and sole proprietors of the vulgarism. If Shakespere was not a pugilist, he certainly anticipated the terms of the prize ring—or they were respectable words before the prize ring was thought of,—for he has PAY, to beat or thrash, and PEPPER, with a similar meaning; also FANCY, in the sense of pets and favourites,—pugilists are often termed *the* FANCY. The cant word PRIG, from the Saxon, *priccan*, to filch, is also Shakesperian; so indeed is PIECE, a contemptuous term for a young woman. Shakespere was not the only vulgar dramatist of his time. Ben Jonson, Beaumont, and Fletcher, Brome, and other play-writers occasionally put cant words into the mouths of their low characters, or employed old words which have since degenerated into vulgarisms. CRUSTY, poor tempered;

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"two of a KIDNEY," two of a sort; LARK, a piece of fun; LUG, to pull; BUNG, to give or pass; PICKLE, a sad plight; FRUMP, to mock, are a few specimens casually picked from the works of the old histrionic writers.

One old English mode of canting, simple and effective when familiarized by practice, was the inserting a consonant betwixt each syllable; thus, taking *g*, "How do you do?" would be "Hou*g* do*g* you*g* do*g*? The name given to this disagreeable nonsense, we are informed by Grose, was very properly *Gibberish.*

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ACCOUNT

OF THE

HIEROGLYPHICS USED BY VAGABONDS.

ONE of the most singular chapters in a *History of Vagabondism*, would certainly be an account of the Hieroglyphic signs used by tramps and thieves. The reader may be startled to know that, in addition to a secret language, the wandering tribes of this country have private marks and symbolic signs, with which to score their successes, failures, and advice to succeeding beggars; in fact that the country is really dotted over with beggars' finger posts and guide stones. The assertion, however strange it may appear, is no fiction. The subject was not long since brought under the attention of the Government by Mr. Rawlinson.* "There is," he says in his report, "a sort of blackguards' literature, and the initiated understand each other by

* MR. RAWLINSON'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH, *Parish of Havant, Hampshire.*

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slang [cant] terms, by pantomimic signs, *and by* HIEROGLYPHICS. *The vagrant's mark may be seen in Havant, on corners of streets, on door posts, and on house steps. Simple as these chalk lines appear, they inform the succeeding vagrants of all they require to know; and a few white scratches may say, 'be importunate,' or 'pass on.'*"

Another very curious account was taken from a provincial newspaper, published in 1849, and forwarded to *Notes and Queries*,* under the head of MENDICANT FREEMASONRY. "Persons," remarks the writer, "indiscreet enough to open their purses to the relief of the beggar tribe, would do well to take a readily learned lesson as to the folly of that misguided benevolence which encourages and perpetuates vagabondism. Every door or passage is pregnant with instruction as to the error committed by the patron of beggars, as the beggar-marks show that a system of freemasonry is followed, by which a beggar knows whether it will be worth his while to call into a passage or knock at a door. Let any one examine the entrances to the passages in any town, and there he will find chalk marks, unintelligible to him, but significant

* Vol. v., p. 210.

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enough to beggars. If a thousand towns are examined, the same marks will be found at every passage entrance. The passage mark is a cypher with a twisted tail: in some cases the tail projects into the passage, in others outwardly; thus seeming to indicate whether the houses down the passage are worth calling at or not. Almost every door has its marks: these are varied. In some cases there is a cross on the brick work, in others a cypher: the figures, 1, 2, 3, are also used. Every person may for himself test the accuracy of these statements by the examination of the brick work near his own doorway—thus demonstrating that mendicity is a regular trade, carried out upon a system calculated to save time, and realise the largest profits." These remarks refer mainly to provincial towns, London being looked upon as the tramps' home, and therefore too "fly," or experienced, to be duped by such means.

The only other notice of the hieroglyphics of vagabonds that I have met with, is in *Mayhew's London Labour and London Poor.** Mayhew obtained his information from two tramps, who stated that hawkers employ these signs as well as beggars.

* Vol. 1, p. 218 and 247.

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One tramp thus described the method of "*working**" a small town. "Two hawkers (PALS*) go together, but separate when they enter a village, one taking one side of the road, and selling different things; and so as to inform each other as to the character of the people at whose houses they call, *they chalk certain marks on their doorposts.*" Another informant stated that "if a PATTERER* has been CRABBED (that is offended) at any of the CRIBBS (houses), *he mostly chalks a signal at or near the door.*"

Another use is also made of these hieroglyphics. Charts of successful begging neighbourhoods are rudely drawn, and symbolical signs attached to each house to show whether benevolent or adverse† "In

* See Dictionary.

† Sometimes, as appears from the following, the names of persons and houses are written instead. "In almost every one of the padding-kens, or low lodging-houses in the country, there is a list of walks pasted up over the kitchen mantel piece. Now at St. Albans, for instance, at the ———, and at other places, there is a paper stuck up in each of the kitchens. This paper is headed 'WALKS OUT OF THIS TOWN,' and underneath it is set down the names of the villages in the neighbourhood at which a beggar may call when out on his walk, and they are so arranged as to allow the cadger to make a round of about six miles each day, and return the same night. In many of these papers there are sometimes twenty walks set down. No villages that are in any way 'gammy' [bad] are ever mentioned in these papers,

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many cases there is over the kitchen mantel-piece" of a tramps' lodging-house, "*a map of the district*, dotted here and there with memorandums of failure or success." ‡ A correct facsimile of one of these singular maps has been placed as a frontis-piece. It was obtained from the patterers and tramps who supplied a great many words for this work, and who have been employed by me for some time in collecting Old Ballads, Christmas Carols, Dying Speeches, and Last Lamentations, as materials for a *History of Popular Literature*. The reader will no doubt be amused with the drawing. The locality depicted is near Maidstone in Kent, and I am informed that it was probably sketched by a wandering screever in payment for a night's lodging. The English practice of marking everything, and scratching names on public pro-perty extends itself to the tribe of vagabonds. On the map, as may be seen in the left-hand

and the cadger, if he feels inclined to stop for a few days in the town, will be told by the lodging-house keeper, or the other cadgers that he may meet there, what gentlemen's seats or private houses are of any account on the walk that he means to take. The names of the good houses are not set down in the paper for fear of the police."—*Mayhew*, vol. i,, p. 418.

‡ *Mayhew*, vol. i., p. 218.

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corner, some "*traveller*" * has drawn a favourite or noted female, singularly nick-named *three quarter Sarah.* What were the peculiar accomplishments of this lady to demand so uncommon a name, the reader will be at a loss to discover, but a patterer says it probably refers to a shuffling dance of that name, common in tramps' lodging-houses, and in which "¾ Sarah" may have been a proficient. Above her, three beggars or hawkers have reckoned their day's earnings, amounting to 13*s.*; and on the right a tolerably correct sketch of a low hawker or costermonger is drawn. "To Dover, the *nigh* way," is the exact phraseology; and "hup here," a fair specimen of the self-acquired education of the tribe of cadgers. No key or explanation to the hieroglyphics was given in the original, because it would have been superfluous, when every inmate of the lodging-house knew the marks from their cradle,—or rather their mother's back.

Should there be no map, "in most lodging-houses there is an old man who is guide to every 'WALK' in the vicinity, and who can tell each

* See Dictionary.

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house on every round, that is 'good for a cold tatur.'" * The hieroglyphics that are used are :—

NO GOOD; too poor, and know too much.

STOP,—if you have what they want, they will buy. They are pretty "*fly*" (knowing).

GO IN THIS DIRECTION, it is better than the other road. Nothing that way.

BONE (good). Safe for a "cold tatur," if for nothing else. "*Cheese your patter*" (don't talk much) here.

COOPER'D (spoilt), by too many tramps calling there.

GAMMY (unfavourable), likely to have you taken up. Mind the dog.

FLUMMUXED (dangerous), sure of a month in *quod* (prison).

RELIGIOUS, but tidy on the whole.

Where did these signs come from, and when were they first used? are questions which I have asked myself again and again, whilst endeavouring to discover their history. Knowing the character of the Gipsies, and ascertaining from a tramp that they are well acquainted with the hieroglyphics, "and have been as long ago as ever he could remember," I have little hesitation in ascribing the invention to them. And strange it would be if some modern Belzoni, or Champollion, discovered in these beggars' marks fragments of ancient Egyp-

* *Mayhew*, vol. 1, p. 218.

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tian or Hindoo hieroglyphical writing! But this, of course, is a simple vagary of the imagination.

That the Gipsies were in the habit of leaving memorials of the road they had taken, and the successes that had befallen them, there can be no doubt. In an old book, *The Triumph of Wit*, 1724, there is a passage which appears to have been copied from some older work, and it runs thus:—"The Gipsies set out twice a year, and scatter all over England, each parcel having their appointed stages, that they may not interfere, nor hinder each other; and for that purpose, when they set forward in the country, *they stick up boughs in the way of divers kinds, according as it is agreed among them, that one company may know which way another is gone, and so take a different road.*" The works of *Hoyland* and *Borrow* supply other instances.

I cannot close this subject without drawing attention to the extraordinary fact, that actually on the threshold of the gallows the sign of the vagabond is be met with! "The murderer's signal is even exhibited from the gallows; as a red handkerchief held in the hand of the felon about to be

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executed is a token that he dies without having betrayed any professional secrets." *

As this sheet is passing through the press, a clergyman writes from Great Yarmouth to say that only a short time since, when residing in Norwich, he used frequently to see beggars' marks on the houses, and street corners.

* *Mr. Rawlinson's Report to the General Board of Health,— Parish of Havant, Hampshire.*

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THE HISTORY OF SLANG,

OR THE

VULGAR LANGUAGE OF FAST LIFE.

SLANG is the language of street humour, of fast, high, and low life. CANT, as was stated in the chapter upon that subject, is the vulgar language of secrecy. They are both universal and ancient, and appear to have been the peculiar concomitants of gay, vulgar, or worthless persons in every part of the world, at every period of time. Indeed, if we are to believe implicitly the saying of *the* wise man, that "there is nothing new under the sun," the "fast" men of buried Nineveh, with their knotty and door-matty looking beards, may have cracked slang jokes on the steps of Sennacherib's palace; and the stocks and stones of Ancient Egypt, and the bricks of venerable and used-up Babylon, may, for aught we know, be covered with slang hieroglyphics unknown to

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modern antiquarians, and which have long been stumbling-blocks to the philologist;—so impossible is it at this day to say what was then authorized, or what then vulgar language. Slang is as old as speech and the congregating together of people in cities. It is the result of crowding, and excitement, and artificial life.

Old English Slang was coarser, and depended more upon downright vulgarity than our modern slang. It was a jesting speech, or humorous indulgence for the thoughtless moment, or the drunken hour, and it acted as a vent-peg for a fit of temper or irritability; but it did not interlard and permeate every description of conversation as now. It was confined to nick-names and improper subjects, and encroached but to a very small extent upon the domain of authorized speech. Indeed, it was exceedingly limited when compared with the vast territory of slang in such general favour and complete circulation at the present day. Still, although not an alarming encumbrance, as in our time, slang certainly did exist in this country centuries ago, as we may see if we look down the page of any respectable History of England. Cromwell was familiarly called OLD NOLL,—just the same

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as Buonaparte was termed BONEY, and Wellington CONKEY, or NOSEY, only a few years ago. His legislature, too, was spoken of in a high-flavoured way as the BAREBONES, or RUMP parliament, and his followers were nicknamed ROUNDHEADS, and the peculiar religious sects of his protectorate were styled PURITANS and QUAKERS. The Civil War pamphlets, and the satirical hits of the Cavaliers and the Commonwealth men, originated numerous slang words and vulgar similes, in full use at the present moment. Here is a field of enquiry for the Philological Society, indeed I may say a territory, for there are thirty thousand of these partisan tracts. Later still, in the court of Charles the Second, the naughty ladies and the gay lords, with Rochester at their head, talked slang;—and very naughty slang it was too! Fops, in those days, when "over head and ears" in debt and in continual fear of arrest, termed their enemies, the bailiffs, PHILISTINES or MOABITES. One half of the coarse wit in Butler's Hudibras lurks in the vulgar words and phrases which he was so fond of employing. They were more homely and forcible than the mild and elegant sentences of Cowley, and the people, therefore, hurrah'd them, and

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pronounced Butler one of themselves,—or, as we should say, in a joyful moment, a jolly good fellow. Orator Henley preached and prayed in slang, and first charmed and then swayed the dirty mobs in Lincoln's Inn Fields by vulgarisms. Burly Grose mentions Henley, with the remark that we owe a great many slang phrases to him. Swift, and old Sir Roger L'Estrange, and Arbuthnot were all fond of vulgar or slang language; indeed, we may see from a slang word used by the latter how curious is the gradual adoption of vulgar terms in our standard dictionaries. The worthy doctor, in order to annihilate (or, as we should say with a fitting respect to the subject under consideration, SMASH) an opponent, thought proper on an occasion to use the word CABBAGE, not in the ancient and esculentary sense of a flatulent vegetable of the kitchen garden, but in the at once slang sense of purloining or cribbing. Johnson soon met with the word, looked at it, examined it, weighed it, and shook his head, but out of respect to a brother doctor inserted it in his dictionary, labelling it, however, prominently "*cant;*" whilst Walker and Webster, years after, when *to cabbage* was *to pilfer* all over England, placed the term in their dictionaries

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as an ancient and very respectable word. How crammed with slang are the dramatic works of the last century! The writers of the comedies and farces in those days must have lived in the streets, and written their plays in the public-houses, so filled are they with vulgarisms and unauthorized words. The popular phrases, "I owe you one," "that's one for his nob," and "keep moving, dad," arose in this way.* Tom Brown, of "facetious memory" as his friends were wont to say, and Ned Ward, who wrote humorous books, and when tired drew beer for his customers at his ale-house in Long Acre, were both great producers of slang in the last century, and to them we owe many popular current phrases and household words.

Written slang was checked rather than advanced by the pens of Addison, Johnson, and Goldsmith, although John Bee, the bottle-holder and historiographer of the pugilistic band of brothers in the youthful days of flat-nosed Tom Crib, has gravely stated that Johnson, when young and rakish, contributed to an early volume of the *Gentleman's Magazine* a few pages, by way of specimen, of a slang dictionary, the result, Mr. Bee says, "of his

* See *Notes and Queries*, vol. i. p. 185. 1850.

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midnight ramblings!"* And Goldsmith, I must not forget to remark, certainly coined a few words, although, as a rule, his pen was pure and graceful, and adverse to neologisms. The word FUDGE, it has been stated, was first used by him in literary composition, although it originated with one Captain Fudge, a notorious fibber, nearly a century before. Street-phrases, nick-names, and vulgar words were continually being added to the great stock of popular slang up to the commencement of the present century, when it received numerous additions from pugilism, horse-racing, and "fast" life generally which suddenly came into great public favour, and was at its height when the Prince Regent was in his rakish minority. Slang in those days was generally termed FLASH language. So popular was it with the "bloods" of high life that it constituted the best paying literary capital for certain authors and dramatists. Pierce Egan issued *Boxiana* and *Life in London*, six portly octavo volumes, crammed with slang; and Moncrieff wrote the most popular farce of the day, *Tom and Jerry*, which, to use newspaper slang, "took the town by storm." This,

* *Sportsman's Dictionary*, 1825, p. 15. I have searched the venerable Magazine in vain for this slang glossary.

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also, was brimful of slang. Other authors helped to popularize and extend slang down to our own time, when it has taken a somewhat different turn, dropping many of the cant and old vulgar words, and assuming a certain quaint and fashionable phraseology,—Frenchy, familiar, utilitarian, and jovial. There can be no doubt but that common speech is greatly influenced by fashion, fresh manners, and that general change of ideas which steals over a people once in a generation. But before I proceed further into the region of *slang*, it will be well to say something on the etymology of the word.

The word SLANG is only mentioned by two lexicographers,—Webster and Ogilvie. Johnson, Walker, and the older compilers of dictionaries, give *slang* the preterite of *sling*, but not a word about SLANG in the sense of low, vulgar, or unrecognized language. The origin of the word has often been asked for in literary journals and books, but only one man, as far as I can learn, has ever hazarded an etymology,—John Bee, the vulgar chronicler of the prize-ring.* With a recklessness peculiar to pugilism, Bee stated that SLANG was

* Introduction to *Bee's Sportsman's Dictionary*, 1825.

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derived from "the *slangs* or fetters worn by prisoners, having acquired that name from the manner in which they were worn, as they required a sling of string to keep them off the ground." Bee had just been nettled at Pierce Egan producing a new edition of *Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, and was determined to excel him in a vulgar dictionary of his own, which should be more racy, more pugilistic, and more original. How far he succeeded in this latter particular his ridiculous etymology of slang will show. SLANG is not an English word, it is the Gipsey term for their secret language, and its synonyme is GIBBERISH,—another word which was believed to have had no distinct origin.* Grose—stout and burly Captain Grose—who we may characterize as the greatest antiquary, joker, and drinker of porter of his day, was the first author who put the word SLANG into

* The Gipsies use the word slang as the Anglican synonyme for Romany, the continental (or rather Spanish) term for the Cingari, or Gipsey tongue. *Crabb*, who wrote the *Gipsies' Advocate* in 1831, thus mentions the word:—"This language [Gipsey] *called by themselves* SLANG, or GIBBERISH, invented, as they think, by their forefathers for secret purposes, is not merely the language of one or a few of these wandering tribes, which are found in the European nations, but is adopted by the vast numbers who inhabit the earth."

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print. It occurs in his *Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* of 1785, with the signification that it implies "cant or vulgar language." Grose, I may remark in passing, was a great favourite with the poet Burns, and so pleased by his extensive powers of story-telling and grog-imbibing, that the companionable and humour-loving Scotch bard wrote for his fat friend—or, to use his own words, "the fine, fat, fodgel wight"—the immortal poem of "Tam O'Shanter."

Without troubling the reader with a long account of the transformation into an English term of the word slang, I may remark in passing that it is easily seen how we obtained it from the Gipsies. Hucksters and beggars on tramp, or at fairs and races, associate and frequently join in any rough enterprise with the Gipsies. The word would be continually heard by them, and would in this manner soon become CANT;* and, when carried by "fast" or vulgar fashionables from the society of thieves and low characters to their own drawing-

* The word SLANG assumed various meanings amongst costermongers, beggars, and vagabonds of all orders. It was, and is still, used to express cheating by false weights, a raree show, for retiring by a back door, for a watch chain, and for their secret language.

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rooms, would as quickly become SLANG, and the representative term for all vulgar or slang language.

Any sudden excitement, peculiar circumstance, or popular literary production is quite sufficient to originate and set going a score of slang words. Nearly every election or public agitation throws out offshoots of the excitement or scintillations of the humour in the shape of slang terms,—vulgar at first, but at length adopted as semi-respectable from the force of habit and custom. There is scarcely a condition or calling in life that does not possess its own peculiar slang. The professions, legal and medical, have each familiar and unauthorized terms for peculiar circumstances and things, and I am not certain that the clerical calling, or "*the cloth*," is entirely free from this peculiarity. Every workshop, warehouse, factory, and mill throughout the country has its slang, and so have the public schools of Eton, Harrow, and Westminster, and the great Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Sea slang constitutes the principal charm of a sailor's "yarn," and our soldiers and officers have each their peculiar nicknames and terms for things and subjects proper and im-

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proper. A writer in *Household Words* (No. 183), has gone so far as to remark, that a person "shall not read one single parliamentary debate, as reported in a first-class newspaper, without meeting scores of slang words;" and "that from Mr. Speaker in his chair, to the Cabinet Ministers whispering behind it,—from mover to seconder, from true blue Protectionist to extremest Radical,—Mr. Barry's New House echoes and re-echoes with slang." Really it seems as if our boasted English tongue was a very paltry and ill-provided contrivance after all,—or can it be that we are the most vulgar of people?

The universality of slang is extraordinary. Let any person for a short time narrowly examine the conversation of their dearest and nearest friends, aye, censor-like, even slice and analyze their own supposed correct talk, and they shall be amazed at the numerous unauthorized, and what we can only call vulgar words they continually employ. It is not the number of new words that we are ever introducing that is so reprehensible, there is not so much harm in this practice (frequently termed in books "the license of expression") if neologisms are really required, but it is the con-

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tinually encumbering of *old* words with fresh and strange meanings. Look at those simple and useful verbs, *do*, *cut*, *go*, and *take*, and see how they are hampered and overloaded, and then let us ask ourselves how it is that a French or German gentleman, be he ever so well educated, is continually blundering and floundering amongst our *little* words when trying to make himself understood in an ordinary conversation. He may have studied our language the required time, and have gone through the usual amount of grinding, and practised the common allotment of patience, but all to no purpose as far as accuracy is concerned. I am aware that most new words are generally regarded as slang, although afterwards they may become useful and respectable additions to our standard dictionaries. JABBER and HOAX were slang and cant terms in Swift's time. Words directly from the Latin and Greek, and Carlyleisms, are allowed by an indulgent public to pass and take their places in books. Sound contributes many slang words,—a source that etymologists too frequently overlook. Nothing pleases an ignorant person more than a high-sounding term "full of fury." How melodious and drum-like are those vulgar coruscations,

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RUMBUMPTIOUS, SPLENDIFEROUS, RUMBUSTIOUS, FERRICADOUZER, and ABSQUATULATE. What a "pull" the sharp-nosed lodging-house keeper thinks she has over her victims if she can but hurl such testimonies of a liberal education at them when they are disputing her charges, and threatening to ABSQUATULATE! Vulgar words representing action and brisk movement often owe their origin to sound. Mispronunciation, too, is another great source of vulgar or slang words,—RAMSHACKLE, SHACKLY, NARY-ONE for neither, or neither one, OTTOMY for anatomy, RENCH for rinse, are specimens. Literature has its slang terms; and the desire on the part of writers to say funny and startling things in a novel and curious way (the late *Household Words*,* for instance,) contributes many unauthorized words to the great stock of slang.

Fashionable, or *upper-class slang*, is of several varieties. There is the Belgravian, military and naval, parliamentary, dandy, and the reunion and visiting slang. Concerning the slang of the fashionable world, a writer in *Household Words* curiously, but not altogether truthfully remarks

* It is rather singular that this popular journal should have contained a long article on *Slang* a short time ago.

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that it is mostly imported from France; and that an unmeaning gibberish of Gallicisms runs through English fashionable conversation, and fashionable novels, and accounts of fashionable parties in the fashionable newspapers. Yet, ludicrously enough, immediately the fashionable magnates of England seize on any French idiom, the French themselves not only universally abandon it to us, but positively repudiate it altogether from their idiomatic vocabulary. If you were to tell a well-bred Frenchman that such and such an aristocratic marriage was on the *tapis*, he would stare with astonishment, and look down on the carpet in the startled endeavour to find a marriage in so unusual a place. If you were to talk to him of the *beau monde*, he would imagine you meant the world which God made, not half-a-dozen streets and squares between Hyde Park Corner and Chelsea Bun House. The *thé dansante** would be completely inexplicable to him. If you were to point out to him the Dowager Lady Grimguffin acting as *chaperon* to Lady Amanda Creamville, he would imagine you were

* The writer is quite correct in instancing this piece of fashionable twaddle. The mongrel formation is exceedingly amusing to a polite Parisian.

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referring to the *petit Chaperon rouge*—to little Red Riding Hood. He might just understand what was meant by *vis-a-vis*, *entremets*, and some others of the flying horde of frivolous little foreign slangisms hovering about fashionable cookery and fashionable furniture; but three-fourths of them would seem to him as barbarous French provincialisms, or, at best, but as antiquated and obsolete expressions, picked out of the letters of Mademoiselle Scuderi, or the tales of Crebillon the "younger." What, too, can be more abominable than that heartless piece of fashionable newspaper slang, regularly employed when speaking of the successful courtship of young people in the fashionable world:—

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.—We understand that a marriage is ARRANGED (!) betwixt the Lady, &c., &c., and the Honourable, &c., &c.

Arranged! Is that cold-blooded Smithfield or Mark-lane term for a sale or a purchase the proper word to express the hopeful, joyous, golden union of young and trustful hearts? Which is the proper way to pronounce the names of great people, and what the correct authority? Lord Cowper, we are often assured, is Lord *Cooper*,—on this principle Lord Cowley would certainly be Lord *Cooley*,—

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and Mr. Carew, we are told, should be Mr. *Carey*, Ponsonby should be *Punsunby*, Eyre shoul be *Aire*, and Powell should always be *Poel*. I don't know that these lofty persons have as much cause to complain of the illiberality of fate in giving them disagreeable names as did the celebrated Psyche (as she was termed by Tom Moore), whose original name, through her husband, was *Teague*, but which was afterwards altered to Tighe.

Parliamentary slang, excepting a few peculiar terms connected with "*the* House" (scarcely slang, I suppose), is mainly composed of fashionable, literary, and learned slang. When members, however, get excited and wish to be forcible, they are often not very particular which of the street terms they select, providing it carries, as good old Dr. South said, plenty of wild-fire in it. Sir Hugh Cairns very lately spoke of "that homely but expressive phrase, DODGE." Out of the "House," several slang terms are used in connection with parliament or members of parliament. If Lord Palmerston is known by name to the tribes of the Caucasus and Asia Minor as a great foreign diplomatist, when the name of our Queen Victoria is an unknown title to the inhabitants of those

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parts—as was stated by the *Times* a short time ago,—I have only to remark that amongst the costers and the wild inhabitants of the streets he is better known as PAM. I have often heard the cabmen on the "ranks" in Piccadilly remark of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he has been going from his residence at Grosvenor Gate, to Derby House in St. James's Square,—"hollo, there! de yer see old DIZZY doing a stump?" A PLUMPER is a single vote at an election,—not a SPLIT-TICKET; and electors who have occupied a house, no matter how small, and boiled a pot in it, thus qualifying themselves for voting, are termed POT-WOLLOPPERS. A quiet WALK OVER is a re-election without opposition and much cost. Who that occasionally passes near the Houses of Parliament has not often noticed stout or careful M.P.s walk briskly through the Hall, and on the curb-stone in front, with umbrella or walking-cane uplifted, shout to the cabmen on the rank, FOUR-WHEELER! The term is a useful one, but I am afraid we must consider it slang, until it is stamped with the mint mark of lexicographical authority.

Military, or *Officers' slang* is on a par, and of a

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character with the *Dandy slang.* Inconvenient friends, or elderly and lecturing relatives are pronounced DREADFUL BORES. Four-wheel cabs are called BOUNDERS; and a member of the Four-in-hand Club, driving to Epsom on the Derby day, would, using fashionable slang phraseology, speak of it as TOOLING HIS DRAG DOWN TO THE DERBY. A vehicle, if not a DRAG (or dwag) is a TRAP, or a CASK; and if the TURN OUT happened to be in other than a trim condition, it is pronounced at once as not DOWN THE ROAD. Your city swell would say it is not UP TO THE MARK; whilst the costermonger would call it WERY DICKEY. In dandy or swell slang, any celebrity from Robson, of the Olympic, to the Pope of Rome, is a SWELL. Wrinkled faced old professors, who hold dress and fashionable tailors in abhorrence, are called AWFUL SWELLS, if they happen to be very learned or clever. I may remark that in this upper class slang a title is termed a HANDLE; trousers, INEXPRESSIBLES; a reunion, a SPREAD; a friend (or a "good fellow"), a TRUMP; a difficulty, a SCREW LOOSE; and everything that is unpleasant, "from bad sherry to a writ from a tailor," JEUCED INFERNAL. The military custom of "sending a man to

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COVENTRY," or permitting no person to speak to him, although an ancient phrase, must still be considered slang.

The *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge*, and the great public schools, are the hotbeds of fashionable slang. Growing boys and high-spirited young fellows detest restraint of all kinds, and prefer making a dash at life in a slang phraseology of their own, to all the set forms and syntactical rules of *Alma Mater*. Many of the most expressive words in a common chit-chat, or free and easy conversation, are old University vulgarisms. CUT, in the sense of dropping an acquaintance, was originally a Cambridge form of speech; and HOAX, to deceive or ridicule, we are informed by Grose, was many years since an Oxford term. Among the words that fast society has borrowed from our great scholastic [I was going to say *establishments*, but I remembered the linen drapers' horrid and habitual use of the word] institutions, I find CRIB, a house or apartments; DEAD-MEN, empty wine bottles; DRAWING TEETH, wrenching off knockers; FIZZING, first-rate, or splendid; GOVERNOR, the general term for a male parent; PLUCKED, defeated or turned back; QUIZ, to cru-

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tinize, or a prying old fellow; and ROW, a noisy disturbance. There are other slang expressions but seldom used outside the walls of Eton or Oxford, such as SCOUT, an errand boy; SCULL, a master of a college; SIZE, to sup at one's own expense; and SOPH, an undergraduate in his second year.

Religious slang, strange as the compound may appear, exists with other descriptions of vulgar speech at the present day. *Punch*, a few weeks ago, in one of those half-humorous, half-serious articles in which he is so fond of lecturing any national abuse or popular folly, remarked that slang had "long since penetrated into the Forum, and now we meet it in the Senate, *and even the pulpit itself is no longer free from its intrusion.*" I would not, for one moment, wish to infer that the practice is general. On the contrary, and in justice to the clergy it must be said, that the principal disseminators of pure English throughout the country are the ministers of our Established Church. Yet it cannot be denied but that a great deal of slang phraseology and disagreeable vulgarism has gradually crept into the very pulpits which should give forth as pure speech as doctrine.

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What can be more objectionable than the irreverent and offensive manner in which many of the dissenting ministers continually pronounce the names of the Deity, God and Lord. God, instead of pronouncing in the plain and beautifully simple old English way, God, they drawl out into GORDE or GAUDE; and Lord, instead of speaking in the proper way, they desecrate into LOARD or LOERD,—lingering on the *u*, or the *r*, as the case may be, until an honest hearer feels disgusted, and almost inclined to run the gauntlet of beadles and deacons, and pull the vulgar preacher from his pulpit. I have observed that many of the young preachers strive hard to acquire this peculiar pronunciation, in imitation of the older ministers. What can more properly, then, be called slang, or, indeed, the most objectionable of slang, than this studious endeavour to pronounce the most sacred names in a uniformly vulgar and unbecoming manner. If the old-fashioned preacher whistled cant through his nose, the modern vulgar reverend whines slang from the more natural organ. These vagaries of speech will, perhaps, by an apologist be termed "pulpit peculiarities," and the writer dared to intermeddle with a subject that is or should be re-

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moved from his criticisms. The terms used by the mob towards the Church, however illiberal and satirically vulgar, are within his province in such an inquiry as the present. A clergyman, in vulgar language, is spoken of as a CHOKER, a CUSHION THUMPER, a DOMINE, a GOSPEL GRINDER, a ROOK, a SPOUTER, or a WHITE CHOKER. His profession is termed THE CLOTH, and his practice TUB THUMPING.

Particular as lawyers generally are about the meaning of words, they have not prevented an unauthorized phraseology from arising, which we may term *Legal slang*. So forcibly did this truth impress a late writer, that he wrote in a popular journal, "you may hear slang every day in term from barristers in their robes, at every mess-table, at every bar-mess, at every college commons, and in every club dining-room." A few of the most common and well-known terms used out of doors, with reference to legal matters, are COOK, to hash or make up a balance-sheet; DIPPED, mortgaged; DUN, to solicit payment; LIMB OF THE LAW, a lawyer; MOUTHPIECE, the coster's term for his counsel; SMASH, to become bankrupt; and WHITEWASHED, said of any debtor who has taken the benefit of

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the Insolvent Act. Lawyers, from their connection with the police courts, and transactions with persons in every grade of society, have ample opportunities for acquiring street slang, which in cross-questioning and wrangling they frequently avail themselves of.

It has been said there exists a *Literary slang*, or "the *slang of Criticism*,—dramatic, artistic, and scientific. Such words as 'æsthetic,' 'transcendental,' the 'harmonies,' the 'unities,' a 'myth:' such phrases as 'an exquisite *morceau* on the big drum,' a 'scholarlike rendering of John the Baptist's great toe,' 'keeping harmony,' 'middle distance,' 'aerial perspective,' 'delicate handling,' 'nervous chiaroscuro,' and the like." More than one literary journal that I could name is fond of employing such terms in their art criticisms, but it is questionable, after all, whether they are not allowable as the generous inflections and bendings of a bountiful language, for the purpose of expressing fresh phases of thought and ideas not yet provided with representative words. The well-known and ever-acceptable *Punch*, with his fresh and choice little pictorial bits by Leech, often employs a slang phrase to give point to a joke, or humour to a line

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of satire. A short time since (4th May, 1859,) he gave an original etymology of the school-boy-ism SLOG. SLOG, said the classical and studious *Punch*, is derived from the Greek word SLOGO, to baste, to wallop, to slaughter. And it was only a few days ago, during the present month of June, that he amused his readers with two columns on *Slang* and *Sanscrit* :—

"The allegory which pervades the conversation of all Eastern nations," remarked the philosophical *Punch*, "is the foundation of Western slang; and the increased number of students of the Oriental languages, especially since Sanscrit and Arabic have been made subjects for the Indian Civil Service Examinations, may have contributed to supply the English language with a large portion of its new dialect. While, however, the spirit of allegory comes from the East, there is so great a difference between the brevity of Western expression, and the more cumbrous diction of the Oriental, that the origin of a phrase becomes difficult to trace. Thus, for instance, whilst the Turkish merchant might address his friend somewhat as follows—'That which seems good to my father is to his servant as the perfumed breath of the west wind in the calm night of the Arabian summer;' the Western negociator observes more briefly, 'ALL SERENE!'"

But the vulgar term, BRICK, *Punch* remarks in illustration,

"Must be allowed to be an exception, its Greek derivation being universally admitted, corresponding so exactly as it does in its rectangular form and compactness to the perfection of manhood, according to the views of *Plato* and *Simonides;* but any

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deviation from the simple expression in which locality is indicated,—as, for instance, a 'genuine Bath,'—decidedly breathes the Oriental spirit."

It is singular that what *Punch* says, unwittingly and in humour, respecting the slang expression, BOSH, should be quite true. BOSH, remarks *Punch*, after speaking of it as belonging to the stock of words pilfered from the Turks, "is one whose innate force and beauty the slangographer is reluctantly compelled to admit. It is the only word which seems a proper appellation for a great deal which we are obliged to hear and to read every day of our life." BOSH, nonsense or stupidity, is derived from the *Gipsey* and the *Persian*. The universality of slang, I may here remark, is proved by its continual use in the pages of *Punch*. Whoever thinks, unless belonging to a past generation, of asking a friend to explain the stray vulgar words employed by the *London Charivari?*

The *Athenæum*, the most learned and censor-like of all the "weeklies," often indulges in a slang word, when force of expression or a little humour is desired, or when the writer wishes to say something which is better said in slang, or so-called vulgar speech, than in the authorized language of

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Dr. Johnson or Lindley Murray. It was but the other day (26th March, 1859,) that a writer in its pages employed an old and favourite word, used always when we were highly pleased with any article at school,—STUNNING. *Bartlett*, the compiler of the *Dictionary of Americanisms*, continually cites the *Athenæum* as using slang and vulgar expressions;—but the magazine the American refers to is not the excellent literary journal which is so esteemed at the present day, it was a smaller, and now defunct "weekly." Many other highly respectable journals often use slang words and phrases. The *Times* (or, in slang, the THUNDERER) frequently employs unauthorized terms; and, following a "leader"* of the purest and most eloquent English composition, may sometimes be seen another article* on a totally different subject, containing, perhaps, a score or more of exceedingly questionable words.

The *Stage*, of course, has its slang,—"both before and behind the curtain," as a journalist remarks.

* The terms *leader* and *article* can scarcely be called slang, yet it would be desirable to know upon what authority they were first employed in their present peculiar sense.

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The stage manager is familiarly termed DADDY; and an actor by profession, or a "professional," is called a PRO. A man who is occasionally hired at a trifling remuneration to come upon the stage as one of a crowd, or when a number of actors are wanted to give effect, is named a SUP,—an abbreviation of "supernumerary." A SURF is a third-rate actor who frequently pursues another calling; and the band, or orchestra between the pit and the stage, is generally spoken of as the MENAGERY. A BEN is a benefit; and a SAL is the slang abbreviation of "salary." Should no wages be forthcoming on the Saturday night, it is said that the GHOST DOESN'T WALK. The travelling or provincial theatricals who perform in any large room that can be rented in a country village are called BARN STORMERS. A LENGTH is forty-two lines of any dramatic composition; and a RUN is the good or bad success of a performance. A SADDLE is the additional charge made by a manager to an actor or actress upon their benefit night. To MUG UP is to paint one's face, or arrange the person to represent a particular character; to CORPSE is to balk, or put the other actors out in their parts by forgetting yours. A performance is spoken of as

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either a GOOSER or a SCREAMER, should it be a failure or a great success;—if the latter, it is not infrequently termed A HIT. To STAR IT is to perform as the centre of attraction, with none but subordinates and indifferent actors in the same performance.

There exists, too, in the great territory of vulgar speech what may not inappropriately be termed *Civic slang.* It consists of mercantile and Stock Exchange terms, and the slang of good living and wealth. A turkey hung with sausages is facetiously styled AN ALDERMAN IN CHAINS; and a half-crown, perhaps from its rotundity, is often termed an ALDERMAN. A BEAR is a speculator on the Exchange; and a BULL, although of another order, follows a like profession. There is something very humorous and applicable in the slang term LAME DUCK, a defaulter in stock-jobbing speculations. The allusion to his "waddling out of the Alley," as they say, is excellent. In Lombard-street a PLUM is £100,000, and a MARYGOLD is one million sterling. But before I proceed further in a sketch of the different kinds of slang, I cannot do better than to speak here of the extraordinary number of cant and slang terms in use to represent money,

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—from farthings to bank notes the value of fortunes. *Her Majesty's coin, collectively or in the piece, is insulted by no less than one hundred and twenty distinct slang words,* from the humble BROWN (a halfpenny) to FLIMSIES, or LONG-TAILED ONES (bank notes.)

"Money," it has been well remarked, "the bare, plain, simple word itself has a sonorous, significant ring in its sound," and might have sufficed, one would have imagined, for all ordinary purposes. But a vulgar or "fast" society has thought differently, and so we have the slang synonymes BEANS, BLUNT, (*i. e.*, specie, — not *stiff* or *rags*, bank notes), BRADS, BRASS, COPPERS (copper money, or mixed pence), CHINK, CHINKERS, CHIPS, DIBBS, DINARLY, DUST, FEATHERS, GENT (silver,—from *argent*), HADDOCK (a purse of money), HORSENAILS, LOAVER, LOUR (the oldest cant term for money), MOPUSSES, NEEDFUL, NOBBINGS (money collected in a hat by street performers), PEWTER, QUIDS, RAGS (banknotes), READY, or READY GILT, REDGE (gold), RHINO, ROWDY SHINERS (sovereigns), SKIN (a purse of money), STIFF (paper, or bill of acceptance), STUFF, STUMPY, TIN (silver), WEDGE (silver), and YELLOW-BOYS (sovereigns);—just thirty-six vulgar equivalents

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for the simple word *money*. So attentive is slang speech to financial matters, that there are six terms for bad, or "bogus" coin (as our friends, the Americans, call it): a CASE is a counterfeit five-shilling piece; HALF A CASE represents half that sum; GRAYS are halfpence made double for gambling purposes; QUEER-SOFT is counterfeit or lead coin; SHEEN is bad money of any description; and SINKERS bears the same and not inappropriate meaning. FLYING THE KITE, or obtaining money on bills and promissory notes, is a curious allusion to children tossing about a paper kite; and RAISING THE WIND is a well-known phrase for procuring money by immediate sale, pledging, or a forced loan. In winter or in summer any elderly gentleman who may have prospered in life is pronounced WARM; whilst an equivalent is immediately at hand in the phrase "his pockets are well LINED." Each separate piece of money has its own slang term, and often half a score of synonymes. To begin with that extremely humble coin a *farthing*: first we have FADGE, then FIDDLER, then GIG, and lastly QUARTEREEN. A *halfpenny* is a BROWN or a MADZA SALTEE (cant), or a MAG, or a POSH, or a RAP,—whence the popular phrase, "I don't care a *rap*."

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The useful and universal *penny* has for slang equivalents a COPPER, a SALTEE (cant), and a WINN. *Two-pence* is a DEUCE, and *three-pence* is either a THRUMS or a THRUPS. *Four-pence*, or a *groat*, may in vulgar speech be termed a BIT, a FLAG, or a JOEY. *Six-pence* is well represented in street talk, and some of the slangisms are very comical, for instance, BANDY, BENDER, and CRIPPLE; then we have FYE-BUCK, HALF A HOG, KICK (thus "two and a kick," or 2s. 6d.), LORD OF THE MANOR, PIG, SNID, SPRAT, SOW'S BABY, TANNER, TESTER, TIZZY,—fourteen vulgar words to one coin. *Seven-pence* being an uncommon amount has only one slang synonyme, SETTER. The same remark applies to *eight-pence* and *nine-pence*, the former being only represented by OTTER, and the latter by the cant phrase, NOBBA-SALTEE. *Ten-pence* is DACHA-SALTEE, and *eleven-pence* DACHA-ONE,—both cant expressions. *One shilling* boasts nine slang equivalents; thus we have BEONG, BOB, BREAKY LEG, DEANER, GEN (either from *argent*, silver, or the back slang), HOG, PEG, STAG, and TEVISS. *Half-a-crown* is known as an ALDERMAN, HALF A BULL, HALF A TUSHEROON, and a MADZA CAROON; whilst a *crown* piece, or *five shillings*, may be called either a BULL, or a CAROON,

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or a CARTWHEEL, or a COACHWHEEL, or a THICK-UN, or a TUSHEROON. The next advance in slang money is *ten shillings*, or *half a sovereign*, which may be either pronounced as HALF a BEAN, HALF A COUTER, a MADZA POONA, or HALF A QUID. A *sovereign*, or *twenty shillings*, is a BEAN, COUTER, FOONT, GOLDFINCH, JAMES, POONA, QUID, a THICK-UN, or a YELLOW BOY. *Guineas* are nearly obsolete, yet the terms NEDS, and HALF NEDS, are still in use. Bank notes are FLIMSIES, LONG-TAILED ONES, or SOFT. A FINUF is a five-pound note. Thus ends, with several omissions, this long list of slang terms for the coins of the realm, which for copiousness, I will engage to say, is not equalled by any other vulgar or unauthorized language in Europe.

The antiquity of many of these slang names is remarkable. WINN was the vulgar term for a penny in the days of Queen Elizabeth; and TESTER, a sixpence (formerly a shilling), was the correct name in the days of Henry the Eighth. The reader, too, will have remarked the frequency of animals' names as slang terms for money. Little, as a modern writer has remarked, do the persons using these phrases know of their remote and somewhat classical origin, which may,

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indeed, be traced to the period antecedent to that when monarchs monopolized the surface of coined money with their own image and superscriptions. They are identical with the very name of money among the early Romans, which was *pecunia*, from *pecus*, a flock. The collections of coin dealers amply show, that the figure of a HOG was anciently placed on a small silver coin; and that that of a BULL decorated larger ones of the same metal; these coins were frequently deeply crossed on the reverse; this was for the convenience of easily breaking them into two or more pieces, should the bargain for which they were employed require it, and the parties making it had no smaller change handy to complete the transaction. Thus we find that the HALF BULL of the itinerant street seller, or "traveller," * so far from being a phrase of modern invention, as is generally supposed, is in point of fact referable to an era extremely remote. There are many other cant words directly from a classic source, as will be seen in the dictionary.

Shopkeepers' slang is, perhaps, the most offensive of all slang. It is not a casual eyesore, as news-

* See Dictionary.

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paper slang, neither is it an occasional discomfort to the ear, as in the case of some vulgar byeword of the street; but it is a perpetual nuisance, and stares you in the face on tradesmen's invoices, on labels in the shop-windows, and placards on the hoardings, in posters against the house next to your own door, if it happens to be empty for a few weeks,—and in bills thrust into your hand, as you peaceably walk through the streets. Under your doors, and down your area, slang hand-bills are dropped by some PUSHING tradesman, and for the thousandth time you are called upon to learn that an ALARMING SACRIFICE is taking place in the next street, that prices are DOWN AGAIN, that in consequence of some other tradesman not doing a ROARING TRADE, being in fact SOLD UP, the PUSHING tradesman wishes to SELL OUT at AWFULLY LOW PRICES, "to the kind patrons, and numerous customers," &c., &c., "that have on every occasion," &c., &c. A tailor usurps to himself a good deal of slang. Amongst operatives he is called a SNIP, or a STEEL BAR DRIVER; by the world, a NINTH PART OF A MAN; and by the young collegian, or "fast" man, a SUFFERER. If he takes army contracts, it is SANK WORK; if he

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is a SLOP tailor, he is a SPRINGER UP, and his garments are BLOWN TOGETHER. Perquisites with him are SPIFFS, and remnants of cloth, PEAKING. If his business succeeds, it TAKES, if neglected it GOES TO POT; if he is deceived by a creditor (a not by any means unusual circumstance) he is LET IN, or as it is sometimes varied TAKEN IN.. I need scarcely remark that any credit he may give is termed TICK.

Operatives' or Workmen's slang, in quality, is but slightly removed from tradesmen's slang. When belonging to the same shop or factory, they are BROTHER CHIPS. They generally dine at SLAP BANG SHOPS, and are often paid at TOMMY SHOPS. They term each other FLINTS and DUNGS, if they are "society" or non-society men. Their salary is a SCREW, and to be discharged is to GET THE SACK. When they quit work, they KNOCK OFF; and when out of employ, they ask if any HANDS are wanted. FAT is the vulgar synonyme for perquisites; ELBOW-GREASE signifies labour; and SAINT MONDAY is the favourite day of the week. I have often thought that many of the slang terms for money originally came from the workshop; thus—

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BRADS, from the ironmonger; CHIPS, from the carpenter; DUST, from the goldsmith; FEATHERS, from the upholsterer; HORSENAILS, from the farrier; HADDOCK, from the fishmonger; and TANNER, from the leather-dresser. The subject is curious. Allow me to call the attention of numismatists to it.

There yet remains several distinct divisions of slang to be examined;—the slang of the *stable*, or *jockey* slang; the slang of the *prize ring;* the slang of *servitude*, or *flunkeydom;* vulgar, or *street* slang; the slang of *softened oaths;* and the slang of *intoxication.* I shall only examine the last two. If society, as has been remarked, is a sham, from the vulgar foundation of commonalty to the crowning summit of royalty, especially do we perceive the justness of the remark in the slang make shifts for oaths, and sham exclamations for passion and temper. These apologies for feeling are a disgrace to our vernacular, although it is some satisfaction to know that they serve the purpose of reducing the stock of national profanity. "You BE BLOWED," or "I'll BE BLOWED IF," &c., is an exclamation often heard in the streets. BLAZES, or "like BLAZES," came probably

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from the army. BLAST, too, although in general vulgar use, may have had a like origin; so may the phrase, "I wish I may be SHOT, if," &c. BLOW ME TIGHT, is a very windy and common exclamation; so are STRIKE ME LUCKY, NEVER TRUST ME, and SO HELP ME DAVY,—it is obvious what the word DAVY is intended to do service for. BY GOLLY, and GOL DARN IT, are both evident shams for profane oaths. NATION is but a softening of *damnation;* and OD, whether used in OD DRAT IT, or OD'S BLOOD, is but an apology for the name of the Deity. Both DEUCE and DICKENS are vulgar old synonymes for the devil; and ZOUNDS is an abbreviation of GOD'S WOUNDS,—a very ancient catholic oath.

In a casual survey of the territory of slang, it is curious to observe how well represented are the familiar wants and failings of life. First, there's money, with one hundred and twenty slang terms and synonymes; then comes drink from small beer to champagne, and next, as a very natural sequence, *intoxication*, and fuddlement generally, with some half a hundred vulgar terms, graduating the scale of drunkenness from a slight inebriation,

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to the soaky state of gutterdom and stretcherdom,—I pray the reader to forgive the expressions. The slang synonymes for mild intoxication are certainly very choice,—they are, BEERY, BOOZY, BOSKY, BUFFY, CORNED, FOGGY, HAZY, ELEVATED, LUSHY, MOONY, MUGGY, MUZZY, SCREWED, STEWED, TIGHT, and WINEY. A higher, or more intense state of beastliness is represented by the expressions, PODGY, BEARGERED, BLUED, CUT, LUMPY, PLOUGHED, MUDDLED, OBFUSCATED, SWIPEY, THREE SHEETS IN THE WIND, and TOP HEAVY. But the climax of fuddlement is only obtained, when the DISGUISED individual CAN'T SEE A HOLE IN A LADDER, or when he is all MOPS AND BROOMS, or on the RAN TAN, or on the RE-RAW, or when he is SEWED UP, or regularly SCAMMERED,—then, and not till then, is he entitled in vulgar society to the title of LUSHINGTON, or recommended to PUT IN THE PIN.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, &c.

A.N.—Anglo-Norman.

Ancient, or *Ancient English*—Whenever these terms are employed, it is meant to signify that the words to which they are attached were in respectable use in or previous to the reign of Elizabeth.—See *Old*.

Ancient Cant—In use as a *cant* word in or previous to the reign of Elizabeth.

A.S.—Anglo-Saxon.

Beds.—Bedfordshire.

Cor.—A corruption.

East.—Used in the Eastern Counties.

Eng.—English.

Fren.—French.

Ger.—German.

Glouc.—Gloucestershire.

Hants.—Hampshire.

Ital.—Italian.

Lat.—Latin.

Linc.—Lincolnshire.

Midx.—Middlesex.

N. D.—No date.

Norf.—Norfolk.

Old, or *Old English*—In general use as a respectable word in or previous to the reign of Charles the Second.—See *Ancient*.

Old Cant—In use as a cant word in or previous to the reign of Charles II.

Oxon.—Oxfordshire.

Prov.—Provincial.

Pug.—Pugilistic.

Sal., or Salop—Shropshire.

Sax.—Saxon, or Anglo-Saxon.

Scot.—Scotch.

Sea—Used principally by Sailors.

Shaks.—Shakspeare.

Som.—Somerset.

Span.—Spanish.

Suf.—Suffolk.

Theat.—Theatrical.

Teut.—Teutonic.

V. D.—Various dates.

West.—Used in the Western Counties.

Wilts.—Wiltshire.

Worc.—Worcestershire.

Yorks.—Yorkshire.

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A

DICTIONARY OF MODERN SLANG, CANT, & VULGAR WORDS;

MANY WITH THEIR ETYMOLOGIES TRACED.

ABRAM-SHAM, or SHAM-ABRAHAM, to feign sickness or distress. From ABRAM MAN, the *ancient cant* term for a begging impostor, or, one who pretended to have been mad.

ABSQUATULATE, to run away, or abscond.

ADAM'S ALE, water. *Eng.*

ADAM'S WINE, water. *Scotch.*

ALDERMAN, a half-crown—possibly from its rotundity.

ALDERMAN, a turkey.

ALDERMAN IN CHAINS, a turkey hung with sausages.

ALL OF A HUGH! all on one side, or, with a thump; the word HUGH being pronounced with a grunt. *Suf.*

ALL MY EYE, answer of astonishment to an improbable story; ALL MY EYE AND BETTY MARTIN, a vulgar phrase with similar meaning, said to be the commencement of a Popish prayer to St. Martin, "Oh mihi, beate Martine."

ALL-OVERISH, neither sick or well.

ALL TO SMASH, or GONE TO PIECES, bankrupt, or smashed to pieces. *Som.*

A-MORT "you took me all *a-mort*," you quite confounded, or astonished me. *Shaks.*

ANY HOW, in any way, or at any rate, bad; "he went on ANY HOW," *i. e.* badly or indifferently.

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APPLE CART, "down with his APPLE CART," *i. e.* upset him. *North.*

APPLE PIE ORDER, in exact, or very nice order.

AREA-SNEAK, a thief who commits his depredations upon kitchens and cellars. See CROW.

ARGOT, a term used amongst thieves for their secret or cant language. *French.*

ARTICLE, a man or boy, derisive term.

ARY, either.

ASKEW, SKEW, or SKEWED, crooked, awry.

ATOP, on, or at the top.

ATTIC, the head; "queer in the ATTIC," intoxicated. *Pug.*

AUNT-SALLY, a favourite game on race courses and at fairs, consisting of a wooden head mounted on a stick, firmly fixed in the ground; in the nose of which, or rather in that part of the facial arrangement of AUNT SALLY which is generally considered incomplete without a nasal projection, a tobacco pipe is inserted. The fun consists in standing at a distance and demolishing AUNT SALLY'S pipe-clay projection with short bludgeons, very similar to the half of a broom-handle. The Duke of Beaufort is a "crack hand" at smashing pipe noses, and his peformances last year on Brighton race course are yet fresh in remembrance. The noble Duke, in the summer months, frequently drives the old London and Brighton four-horse mail coach, "Age,"—a whim singular enough now, but common forty years ago.

AWAKE, or FLY, knowing; thoroughly understanding; not ignorant of. The term "WIDE AWAKE" carries the same meaning in ordinary conversation.

AXE, to ask. *Saxon.*

BACK JUMP, a back window.

BACK SLANG IT, to go out the back way.

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BACK OUT, to retreat from a difficulty; the reverse of GO AHEAD.

BACON, "to save one's BACON," to escape.

BAGS, "to have the BAGS off," to be of age and one's own master; to have plenty of money.

BALL, prison allowance, viz., six ounces of meat.

BALMY, insane.

BAMBOOZLE, to deceive, make fun of, or cheat a person.

BANDED, hungry.

BANDY, or CRIPPLE, a sixpence, so called from this coin being generally bent or crooked; old term for flimsey or bad cloth, temp. Q. Eliz.

BANG, to excel, or surpass.

BANG-UP, first-rate.

BANGING, great, or thumping.

BANSELL, to beat, or chastise. *Stafford.*

BANTLING, a child; stated in *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737, and by *Grose*, to be a cant term.

BARKER, a man employed to cry at the doors of gaffs, shows, and puffing shops, to entice people inside.

BARKING IRONS, pistols.

BARNACLES, a pair of spectacles.

BARNEY, a LARK, SPREE, rough enjoyment; "get up a BARNEY," to have a lark.

BARNEY, a mob, a crowd.

BARN STORMERS, theatrical performers who travel the country and act in barns, selecting short and frantic pieces to suit the rustic taste. *Theat.*

BARRIKIN, jargon, speech, or discourse, "we can't tumble to that BARRIKIN," we can't understand what he says. *Miege* calls it "a sort of stuff."

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BARRING, excepting. *Hibernicism.*

BASH, to beat, thrash; "BASHING a donna," beating a woman, *Beds.* BASH, to beat fruit from trees.

BATS, a pair of bad boots.

BATTER, "on the BATTER," literally "on the streets," or given up to roistering and debauchery.

BAZAAR, a shop, or counter.

BEAK, a magistrate, judge, or policeman; "baffling the BEAK," to get remanded. *Ancient cant,* BECK. *Sax.* BEAG, a necklace or gold collar,—emblem of authority.

BEAKER-HUNTER, a stealer of poultry.

BEANS, money; "a haddock of BEANS," a purse of money; formerly BEAN meant a guinea; BEAN is also a simile for little worth, "not worth a BEAN;" "knowing how many BEANS make five" is a common phrase.

BEAR, one who contracts to deliver or sell a certain quantity of stock in the public funds, on a forthcoming day at a stated place, but who does not possess it, trusting to a decline in public securities, to enable him to fulfil the agreement and realize a profit; see BULL: both words are slang terms on the Stock Exchange, and are frequently used in the business columns of newspapers.

BEARGERED, to be drunk.

BEATER CASES, boots: *nearly obsolete.*

BEAT-HOLLOW, to surpass, or excel.

BEAVER, old street term for a hat; GOSS is the modern word, BEAVER, except in the country, having fallen into disuse.

BE-BLOWED, a windy exclamation equivalent to an oath. *See* BLOW-ME.

BED POST; "in the twinkling of a BED-POST," in a moment, or very quickly.

BEERY, intoxicated, or fuddled with beer.

BELL, a song.

BELLOWS, the lungs.

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BELLOWSED, or LAGGED, transported.

BEN, a benefit. *Theat.*

BENDER, a sixpence,—from its liability to bend.

BENDER, the arm; also an ironical exclamation similar to WALKER.

BENE, good. *Ancient cant;* BENAR was the comparative. *See* BONE. *Lat.*

BENJAMIN, a coat. *See* UPPER-BENJAMIN.

BENJY, a waistcoat.

BEONG, a shilling. *See* SALTEE.

BESTER, a low betting cheat.

BESTING, excelling, cheating. BESTED, taken in, or defrauded.

BETTY, a skeleton key, or picklock. *Old cant.*

BIBLE-CARRIER, a person who sells songs without singing them.

BIG-HOUSE, the work-house.

BILK, a cheat, or a swindler. Formerly in frequent use, now confined to the streets, where it is very general. *Gothic,* BILAICAN.

BILK, to defraud, or obtain goods &c. without paying for them; "to BILK the schoolmaster," to get information or experience without paying for it.

BILLINGSGATE (when applied to speech), foul and coarse language. Not many years since, one of the London notorieties was to hear the fishwomen at Billingsgate abuse each other. The anecdote of Dr. Johnson and the Billingsgate virago is well known.

BILLY-HUNTING, buying old metal.

BIT, fourpence; in America 12½ cents is called a BIT, and a defaced 20 cent piece is termed a "LONG BIT. A BIT is the smallest coin in Jamaica, equal to 6d.

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BILLY, a silk pocket handkerchief; *Scotch.* *See* "WIPE."

*** A list of the slang terms descriptive of the various patterns of handkerchiefs, pocket and neck, is here subjoined—

BELCHER, close striped pattern, yellow silk, and intermixed with white and a little black; named from the Pugilist, Jim Belcher.

BIRD'S EYE WIPE, diamond spots.

BLOOD RED FANCY, red.

BLUE BILLY, blue ground, with white spots.

CREAM FANCY, any pattern on a white ground.

GREEN KING'S MAN, any pattern on a green ground.

RANDLE'S MAN, green, with white spots; named after Jack Randle, pugilist.

WATER'S MAN, sky coloured.

YELLOW FANCY, yellow, with white spots.

YELLOW MAN, all yellow.

BILLY-BARLOWS, street clowns; sometimes termed JIM CROWS.

BIT, a purse, or any sum of money.

BIT, a little, or short time, "wait a BIT," wait a moment. *North*

BIT-FAKER, or TURNER-OUT, a coiner of bad money.

BITE, a cheat, "a Yorkshire BITE," a cheating fellow from that county. *North;* also *old cant*, used by *Pope.*

BITE, to cheat; "to be BITTEN," to be taken in or imposed upon. Originally a Gipsey term. *See Bacchus and Venus.*

BIVVY, or GATTA, beer, "shant of BIVVY," a pot, or quart of beer.

BLACKBERRY-SWAGGER, a person who hawks tapes, boot laces, &c.

BLACK-LEGS, rascals, swindlers, card cheats, &c.

BLADE, a man—in ancient times the term for a soldier; "knowing BLADE," a wide awake, sharp, or cunning man.

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BLACKGUARD, a low or dirty fellow. The origin is not generally known; the dirty tattered boys, who, in the last century used to haunt the entrances of the Horse Guards, cleaning boots, holding horses, or wiping shoes, were called the BLACK-guards in contradistinction to the HORSE guards—vide—*Bacchus and Venus*, 1737. *Grose* gives the same derivation, but Ben Jonson and other old dramatists use the word, which would refer the origin to a still earlier date.

BLARNEY, flattery, exaggeration. *Hibernicism.*

BLAST, to curse.

BLAZES, "like BLAZES," furious or desperate, a low comparison.

BLEST, a vow; "BLEST if I'll do it, *i.e.* I am determined not to do it;—remains of an old Popish vow.

BLEW, or BLOW, to inform, or peach.

BLEWED, got rid of, disposed of, spent; "I BLEWED all my blunt last night," I spent all my money.

BLIND, a pretence, or make believe.

BLIND-HOOKEY, a gambling game at cards.

BLINK FENCER, a person who sells spectacles.

BLOAK, or BLOKE, a man, "the BLOAK with a jasey," the man with a wig, viz. Judge. *North;* BLOACHER, any large animal.

BLOB (from BLAB), to talk. Beggars are of two kinds,—those who SCREEVE (introduce themselves with a FAKEMENT, or false document), and those who BLOB, or state their case in their own truly "unvarnished" language.

BLOCK ORNAMENTS, the small dark coloured pieces of meat exposed on the cheap butcher's blocks or counters,—debateable points to all the sharp visaged argumentative old women in low neighbourhoods.

BLOOD, a fast or high-mettled man. Nearly obsolete in the sense in which it was used in George the Fourth's time.

BLOODY-JEMMY, a sheep's head.

BLOW, to expose, or inform. In *America*, to BLOW is slang for taunting.

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BLOW A CLOUD, to smoke a cigar or pipe—a phrase in use two centuries ago.

BLOW ME, or BLOW ME TIGHT, a vow; a ridiculous and unmeaning ejaculation, inferring an appeal to the ejaculator, "I'm BLOWED if you will" is a common expression among the lower orders, "BLOW ME UP" was the term a century ago. See *Parker's Adventures*, 1781.

BLOW OUT, or TUCK IN, a feast.

BLOW UP, to make a noise, or scold; formerly a cant expression used amongst thieves, now a recognised and respectable phrase.

BLOWEN, a girl of indifferent character; in *Wilts.* a BLOWEN is a blossom.

BLOWER, a girl; a contemptuous name in opposition to JOMER.

BLOWING UP, a scolding.

BLOW UP, to scold.

BLUBBER, to cry in a childish manner. *Ancient.*

BLUDGERS, low thieves, who use violence.

BLUE, to pawn or pledge.

BLUE, confounded or surprised, "to look BLUE," to be astonished or disappointed.

BLUE BILLY, the handkerchief (blue ground with white spots) worn and used at prize fights. Before a "SET TO" it is common to take it from the neck and tie it round the leg as a garter, or round the waist to "keep in the wind."

BLUED, or BLEWED, tipsey or drunk.

BLUE DEVILS, the apparitions supposed to be seen by habitual drunkards.

BLUE MOON, an unlimited period.

BLUE MURDER, a desperate or alarming cry.

BLUE RUIN, gin.

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BLUE-PIGEON-FLYERS, journeymen plumbers, glaziers, and others, who, under the plea of repairing houses, strip off the lead, and make way with it. Sometimes they get off with it by wrapping it round their bodies.

BLUES, a fit of despondency. *See* BLUE DEVILS.

BLUEY, lead.

BLUFF, fierce, harsh but honest. *Old.*

BLUFF, an excuse.

BLUFF, to turn aside, stop, or excuse.

BLUNT, money. It has been said that this term is from the *French* BLOND, sandy or golden colour, and that a parallel may be found in BROWN or BROWNS, the slang for half-pence. The Etymology seems far fetched, however.

BLURT OUT, to speak from impulse, and without reflection. *Shaks.*

BOB, a shilling.

BOBBISH, very well, clever, "how are you doing?"—"Oh! BOBBISH" *Old.*

BOBBY, a policeman. BOBBY is an old English word for striking or hitting, a quality not unknown to policemen.

BODY SNATCHERS, bailiffs and runners: SNATCH, the trick by which the bailiff captures the delinquent.

BODY-SNATCHERS, cat stealers.

BOG HOUSE, a water-closet.

BOG TROTTER, satirical name for an Irishman. *Miege.*

BOLT, to run away, decamp, or abscond.

BOLT, to swallow without chewing.

BONE, good, excellent. *French*, BON.

BONE, to steal, or pilfer. BONED, seized, apprehended. *Old.*

BONE-GRUBBERS, persons who hunt dust holes, gutters, and all likely spots for refuse bones, which they sell at the rag shops, or to the bone-grinders.

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BONES, "he made no BONES of it," he did not hesitate. *Ancient*, vide *Cotgrave.*

BONNET, a gambling cheat. "A man who sits at a gaming table, and appears to be playing against the table; when a stranger enters, the BONNET generally wins."—*Times*, Nov. 17, 1856. Also a pretence, or make believe.

BONNETTER, one who induces another to gamble.

BOOK, an arrangement of bets for and against, chronicled in a pocket-book made for that purpose, "make a BOOK of it," common phrase on a race course. *Shakspere* uses BOOK in the sense of "a paper of conditions."

BOOZE, drink. *Ancient cant*, BOWSE.

BOOZE (from BOWSE, a Gipsey term), to drink, or more properly, to use another slang term, to "lush," viz.: to drink continually, until drunk, or nearly so. The term is an old one. Harman, in Queen Elizabeth's days, speaks of "BOUSING (or boozing) and belly-cheere."

BOOZE, or SUCK CASSE, a public house.

BOOZING-KEN, beer shop, a low public house. *Ancient.*

BOOZY, intoxicated, or fuddled.

BORE, a troublesome friend or acquaintance. *Grose* speaks of this word as being much in fashion about the year 1780–81, and states that it vanished of a sudden without leaving a trace behind. Not so, burly Grose, the term is still in favour, and is as piquant and expressive as ever.

BOSH, nonsense, stupidity. *East. Gipsey and Persian.*

BOSH, a fiddle.

BOSH-FAKER, a violin player.

BOS-KEN, a farmhouse. *Ancient.*

BOSKY, inebriated. *Ho. Words*, No. 188.

BOSMAN, a farmer, "faking a BOSMAN on the main toby," robbing a farmer on the highway.

BOTHER, to teaze, to annoy.

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BOTHER (from the *Hibernicism* POTHER) trouble, or annoyance. *Grose* has a singular derivation, BOTHER, or BOTH-EARED from two persons talking at the same time, or to both ears. BLOTHER, an old word, signifying to chatter idly. See *Halliwell.*

BOTHERATION! trouble, annoyance; "BOTHERATION to it," confound it, or deuce take it, an exclamation when irritated.

BOUNCE, impudence.

BOUNCE, a showy swindler.

BOUNCE, to boast or bully. *Old Cant.*

BOUNCER, a person who steals whilst bargaining with a tradesman.

BOUNDER, a four wheel cab. *Lucus a non lucendo?*

BOUNETTER, a fortune-telling cheat. *Gipsey.*

BOWL-OUT, to detect. *Cricketing term.*

BOWLAS, round tarts made of sugar, apple, and bread, sold in the streets.

BOWLES, shoes.

BOX-HARRY, a term with bagmen or commercial travellers, implying dinner and tea at one meal; also dining with Duke Humphrey, *i. e.* going without. *Linc.*

BRACE UP, to pawn stolen goods.

BRACELETS, handcuffs.

BRADS, money. *Essex.*

BRAD-FAKING, playing at cards.

BRAN-NEW, quite new. *Teut.*

BRASS, money.

BREAD-BASKET, "DUMPLING DEPOT," "VICTUALLING OFFICE," &c., are terms given by the "*Fancy*" to the digestive organ.

BREAKY-LEG, a shilling.

BREACHED, or TO HAVE THE BAGS OFF, to have plenty of money, "to be well BREECHED," to be in good circumstances.

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BRICK, a jolly good fellow, "a regular BRICK," a staunch fellow.

BROADS, cards.

BROAD-FENCER, card seller at races.

BROTHER-CHIP, fellow carpenter. Also BROTHER-WHIP, a fellow coachman, and BROTHER-BLADE, of the same occupation or calling,—originally a fellow soldier.

BROWN, a halfpenny.

BROWN, TO DO BROWN, to do well or completely (in allusion to roasting), "doing it BROWN," prolonging the frolic, or exceeding sober bounds. "DONE BROWN," taken in, deceived, or surprised.

BROWN PAPERMEN, low gamblers.

BROWN SALVE, a token of surprise at what is heard, and at the same time means "I understand you."

BROWN-TO, to understand, to comprehend.

BRUISER, a fighting man, a pugilist. *Pug. Shakspere* uses the word BRUISING in a similar sense.

BRUSH, or BRUSH-OFF, to run away, or move on. *Old cant.*

BUB, drink of any kind. *See* GRUB. *Middleton*, the dramatist, mentions BUBBER, a great drinker.

BUCK, a gay, or smart man.

BUCKLE, to understand, "I can't BUCKLE to that," I don't understand it; to yield or give into a person. *Shakspere* uses the word in the latter sense, Hen. IV., i. 1; and *Halliwell* says that "the commentators do not supply another example." How strange that in our own streets the term should be used every day! Stop the first costermonger, and he will soon inform you the various meanings of BUCKLE.

BUCKLE-TO, to begin at once, and with great energy.

BUDGE, to move, to inform, to SPLIT, or tell tales.

BUFF, to swear to, or accuse; to SPLIT, or peach upon. *Old* word for boasting, 1582.

BUFFER, a dog. Their skins were formerly in great request—hence the term.

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BUFFER, old cant term for a dog, now applied to persons, viz., a "jolly old BUFFER," said of a good humoured or liberal old man. In 1737, a BUFFER was a "rogue that killed good sound horses for the sake of their skins, by running a long wire into them."—*Bacchus and Venus.* The term was once applied to those who took false oaths for a consideration.

BUFFER, a boxer. *Irish cant.*

BUFFING, skinning. BUFF'D, a pugilistic term, signifying being stripped to the skin.

BUFFLE HEAD, a stupid or obtuse person. *Miege.*

BUFFY, intoxicated. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

BUGGY, a gig, or light chaise. Common term in America and in Ireland.

BUG-HUNTERS, low wretches who plunder drunken men.

BULGER, large; synonymous with BUSTER.

BULL, term amongst prisoners for the meat served to them in jail.

BULL, one who agrees to purchase stock at a future day, at a stated price; but who does not possess money to pay for it, trusting to a rise in public securities to render the transaction a profitable one. Should stocks fall, the bull is then called upon to pay the difference. *See* BEAR, who is the opposite of a BULL,—the former selling, the latter purchasing.

BULL, a crown piece; formerly, BULL'S EYE.

BULLY, a braggart; but in the language of the streets, a man of the most degraded morals, who protects prostitutes, and lives off their miserable earnings. *Shakspere,* Mid. Night's Dream, iii. 1, iv. 2.

BUM, the part on which we sit. *Shakspere.*

BUM-BAILIFF, a sheriff's officer,—a term, some say, derived from the proximity which this gentlemen generally maintains to his victims. *Blackstone* says it is a corruption of "bound bailiff."

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BUMMAREES, jobbers or speculators on the Fish-Exchange at Billingsgate. One man at this celebrated fish market declared it was a French name (BEAUMARIS, gros poisson, espèce de squale); another, that it was Dutch; whilst a more intelligent salesman believed BUMMAREE was originally a bum-boat-man, who purchased of the wind-bound smacks at Gravesend or the Nore, and sent the fish rapidly to the market by land. The BUMMAREES are accused of many trade tricks. One of them is to blow up cod-fish with a pipe until they look double their actual size. Of course when the fish comes to table they are flabby, sunken, and half dwindled away.

BUNCH OF FIVES, the hand, or fist.

BUNG, to give, pass, hand over, drink, or indeed to perform any action, "BUNG over the rag," hand over the money. *Old*; used by *Beaumont & Fletcher*.

BUNTS, costermonger's perquisites; the money obtained by giving light weight, &c.; costermongers' goods sold by boys on commission. Probably a corruption of *bonus*, BONE being the slang for good. BUNCE, *Grose* gives as the cant word for money.

BURERK, a lady. *Grose* gives BURICK, a prostitute.

BURYING A MOLL, running away from a mistress.

BUSKER, a man who sings or performs in a public house. *Scotch*.

BUSK, or BUSKING, to sell obscene songs and books at the bars and in the tap-rooms of public houses. Sometimes implies selling any articles.

BUSS, an abbreviation of "omnibus," a public carriage.

BUST, or BURST, to tell tales, to SPLIT, to inform. BUSTING, informing against accomplices when in custody. *Cor.* of BURST.

BUSTER (BURSTER), a small loaf; "twopenny BUSTER," a two-penny loaf.

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BUSTER, an extra size; "what a BUSTER," what a large one; "in for a BUSTER," determined on an extensive frolic or spree. *Scotch*, BUSTUOUS; *Icelandic*, BOSTRA.

BUTTER, or BATTER, praise or flattery.

BUTTON, a decoy, sham purchaser, &c. At any mock or sham auction, seedy specimens may be seen.

BUTTONER, a man who entices another to play. *See* BONNETTER.

BUZZERS, pickpockets. *Grose* gives BUZ COVE and BUZ GLOAK, the latter is very ancient cant.

BUZ, to pick pockets.

BUZ-BLOAK, a pickpocket, who principally confines his attention to purses and loose cash. *Grose* gives BUZ-GLOAK (or CLOAK?), an ancient cant word.

BUZ FAKING, robbing.

BUZ-NAPPER, a young pickpocket.

BUZ-NAPPER'S ACADEMY, a school in which young thieves are trained. Figures are dressed up, and experienced tutors stand in various difficult attitudes for the boys to practice upon. When clever enough they are sent on the streets. It is reported that a house of this nature is situated in a court near Hatton Garden.

BY GEORGE, an exclamation similar to BY JOVE. The term is older than is frequently imagined, vide *Bacchus and Venus* (p. 117), 1737. Fore (or by) GEORGE, I'd knock him down." A street compliment to the House of Hanover, I imagine.

BY GOLLY, an ejaculation, or oath; a compromise for by G–d., In the United States, small boys are permitted by their guardians to say GOL DARN anything, but they are on no account allowed to commit the profanity of G–d d——g anything. An effective ejaculation and moral waste-pipe for interior passion or wrath is seen in the exclamation—BY-THE-EVER-LIVING-JUMPING-MOSES,—a harmless phrase, that from its length expends a considerable quantity of fiery anger.

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CAB, to stick together, to muck, or tumble up. *Devon.*

CABBAGE, pieces of cloth said to be purloined by tailors.

CABBAGE, to pilfer or purloin. Termed by Johnson a cant word, but adopted by later lexicographers as an ancient and respectable term.

CAD, or CADGER (from which it is shortened), a mean fellow; a man trying to worm something out of another, either money or information. Johnson uses the word, and gives *huckster* as the meaning, but I never heard it used in this sense. CAGER, or GAGER, the *old cant* term for a man.

CAD, an omnibus conductor.

CADGE, to beg in an artful or wheedling manner. *North.*

CADGING, begging of the lowest degree.

CAG-MAG, bad food, scraps, odds and ends; or that which no one could relish. *Grose* gives CAGG MAGGS, old and tough Lincolnshire geese, sent to London to feast the poor cockneys.

CAKE, a soft or doughy person, a fool.

CAKEY-PANNUM-FENCER, a man who sells street pastry.

CALL-A-GO, in street "patter," is to remove to another spot, or address the public in another vein.

CAMESA, or CANEZA, shirt or chemise. *Span. Ancient cant,* COMMISSION.

CAMISTER, a preacher, clergyman, or master.

CANISTER, the head. *Pug.*

CANISTER-CAP, a hat. *Pug.*

CANNIKEN, a small can, similar to PANNIKIN. *Shakes.*

CANT, a blow or toss, "a cant over the kisser," a blow on the mouth. *Kent.*

CANT OF TOGS, a gift of clothes.

CARDINAL, a lady's cloak. This I am assured is the slang term for a lady's garment, but curiously enough the same name is given to the most fashionable patterns of the article by Regent Street drapers. A cloak with this name was in fashion in the year 1760.

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CARNEY, soft talk, nonsense, gammon. *Hibernicism.*

CAROON, five shillings. *Cor.* of crown.

CARPET, "upon the CARPET," any subject or matter that is uppermost for discussion or conversation.

CARRIER PIGEONS, swindlers, who formerly used to cheat Lottery Office Keepers. *Nearly obsolete.*

CARROTS, the coarse and satirical term for red hair.

CART, a race-course.

CART WHEEL, a five shilling piece.

CASA, a house. Probably from the *Italian* CASA, as the pronunciation is similar. *Old cant.* The *Dutch* use the word KAST in a vulgar sense for a house, *i.e.* MOTTEKAST, a brothel.

CASE, a bad crown piece. HALF-A-CASE, a counterfeit half crown.

CASE. A few years ago the term CASE was applied to persons and things: "what a CASE he is," *i.e.* what a curious person; "a rum CASE that," or "you are a CASE," both synonymous with the phrase, odd fish, common half-a-century ago.

CASK, fashionable slang for a brougham, or other private carriage. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

CASSAM, cheese,—not CAFFAN, which Egan, in his edition of *Grose*, has ridiculously inserted. *Ancient cant. Lat.*, CASEUS.

CASTING UP ONE'S ACCOUNTS, vomiting. *Old.*

CASTOR, a hat. CASTOR was once the ancient word for a BEAVER; and strange to add, BEAVER was the slang for CASTOR, or hat, thirty years ago, before gossamer came into fashion.

CATCHY (similar formation to *touchy*), inclined to take an undue advantage.

CATEVER, a queer, or singular affair; anything poor, or very bad.

CATGUT-SCRAPER, a fiddler.

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CAT'S WATER, old Tom, or Gin.

CAT AND KITTEN SNEAKING, stealing pint and quart pots from public-houses.

CATCH-PENNY, any temporary contrivance to obtain money from the public, penny shows, or cheap exhibitions.

CAT-IN-THE-PAN, a traitor.

CATTING, vomiting like a cat.

CAVAULTING, coition.

CHAFF, to gammon, joke, quiz, or praise ironically. CHAFF-bone, the jaw-bone. *Yorks.*

CHALKS, "to walk one's CHALKS," to move off, or run away.

CHAP, a fellow, a boy, "a low chap," a low fellow;—abbreviation of CHAP-MAN, a huckster. Used by Byron in his *Critical Remarks.*

CHARIOT-BUZZING, picking pockets in an omnibus.

CHARLEY, a watchman, a beadle.

CHARLEY-PITCHERS, low, cheating gamblers.

CHATTER-BASKET, common term for a prattling child amongst nurses.

CHATTER-BOX, an incessant talker or chatterer.

CHATTRY-FEEDER, a spoon.

CHATTS, dice; formerly the gallows; a bunch of seals.

CHATTS, lice, or body vermin.

CHATTY, a filthy person, one whose clothes are not free from vermin.

CHAUNTER-CULLS, a singular body of men who used to haunt certain well known public-houses, and write satirical or libellous ballads on any person, or body of persons, for a consideration. 7s. 6d. was the usual fee, and in three hours the ballad might be heard in St. Paul's Churchyard, or other public spot. There are two men in London at the present day who gain their living in this way.

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CHAUNTERS, those street sellers of ballads, last copies of verses, and other broadsheets, who sing or bawl the contents of their papers. They often term themselves PAPER WORKERS. *A. N.*

CHAUNT, to sing the contents of any paper in the streets. CANT, as applied to vulgar language, was derived from CHAUNT. See *Introduction.*

CHEAP, "doing it on the CHEAP," living economically, or keeping up a showy appearance with very little means.

CHEAP JACKS, or JOHNS, oratorical hucksters and patterers of hardware, &c., at fairs and races. They put an article up at a high price, and then cheapen it by degrees, indulging in vollies of coarse wit, until it becomes to all appearance a bargain, and as such it is bought by one of the crowd. The popular idea is that the inverse method of auctioneering saves them paying for the auction license. They are often termed *Han-sellers.*

CHEEK, share or portion, "where's my CHEEK," where is my allowance.

CHEEK, impudence, assurance; CHEEKY, saucy or forward. *Linc.*, CHEEK, to accuse.

CHEESE, anything good, first-rate in quality, genuine, pleasant, or advantageous, is termed THE CHEESE. *Mayhew* thinks CHEESE, in this sense, is from the *Saxon*, CEOSAN, to choose, and quotes *Chaucer*, who uses CHESE in the sense of choice. The *London Guide*, 1818, says it was from some young fellows translating "c'est une autre CHOSE" into "that is another CHEESE." CHEESE is also *Gipsey* and *Hindoo.* See *Introduction.*

CHEESY, fine or showy.

CHEESE, or CHEESE IT (evidently a corruption of *cease*), leave off, or have done; "CHEESE your barrikin," hold your noise.

CHESHIRE CAT, "to grin like a CHESHIRE CAT, to display the teeth and gums when laughing.

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CHICE, nothing; no good. The term was first used by the Jews in the last century; *Grose* gives the phrase CHICE-AM-A-TRICE, which has a synonymous meaning. CHICHE is the *A. S.* for niggardly.

CHICKEN-HEARTED, cowardly, fearful.

CHI-IKE, a hurrah, a good word, or hearty praise.

CHINK, money. *Ancient.* See *Florio.*

CHINKERS, money.

CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK, a child who resembles its parents. BROTHER CHIP, one of the same trade or profession.

CHIPS, money.

CHISEL, to cheat.

CHIVARLEY, coition.

CHIVE, a knife; a sharp tool of any kind. *Old cant.*

CHIVE, to cut, saw, or file.

CHIVE-FENCER, a street hawker of cutlery.

CHIVE, or CHIVEY, a shout, or loud tongued; a halloo, or cheer. From CHEVY-CHASE, a boy's game, in which the word CHEVY is bawled aloud; or from the *Gipsey*? See *Introduction.*

CHOKE OFF, to get rid of.

CHOKER, a cravat, a neckerchief. WHITE-CHOKER, the white neckerchief worn by mutes at a funeral, and waiters at a tavern. Clergymen are frequently termed WHITE-CHOKERS.

CHOKER, or WIND-STOPPER, a garrotter.

CHONKEYS, a kind of mince meat baked in a crust, and sold in the streets.

CHOP, to change. *Old.*

CHOPS, the mouth, or cheeks.

CHOUSE, to cheat out of one's share or portion.

CHOVEY, a shop.

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CHRISTENING, erasing the name of the maker from a stolen watch, and inserting a fictitious one in its place.

CHUBBY, round-faced, plump.

CHUCK, to throw or pitch.

CHUCK, or CHOCK-FULL, quite full. *Warw. Cor.* of CHOKE?

CHUCKING A JOLLY, when a costermonger praises the inferior article his mate or partner is trying to sell.

CHUCKLE-HEAD, a fool. *Devon.*

CHUCKING A STALL, where one rogue walks in front of a person while another picks his pockets.

CHUFF IT, *i.e.* be off, or take it away, in answer to a street seller who is importuning you to purchase. *Halliwell* mentions CHUFF as a "term of reproach," surly, etc.

CHUM, an acquaintance. A recognised term, but in such frequent use with the lower orders that it demanded a place in this glossary.

CHUMMING-UP, an old custom amongst prisoners when a fresh culprit is admitted to their number, consisting of a noisy welcome,—rough music made with pokers, tongs, sticks and saucepans. For this ovation the initiated prisoner has to pay, or FORK OVER, half a crown,—or submit to a loss of coat and waistcoat. The practice is ancient.

CHUNK, a thick or dumpy piece of any substance. *Kent.*

CHURCH A YACK (or watch), to take the works of a watch from its original case, and put them into another one to avoid detection. *See* CHRISTEN.

CLAPPER, the tongue.

CLARET, blood. *Pug.*

CLEAN, quite, or entirely, "CLEAN gone," entirely out of sight, or away. *Old,* see *Cotgrave. Shakes.*

CLEAN OUT, to thrash, or beat; to ruin or bankrupt any one; to take all they have got by purchase or force.

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CLICK, knock, or blow. CLICK-HANDED, left-handed. *Cornish.*

CLIGGY, or CLIDGY, sticky. *A word sometimes heard in the West.*

CLINK-RIG, stealing tankards from public-houses, taverns, &c.

CLIPPING, excellent, very good.

CLOD-HOPPER, a country clown.

CLOUT, or RAG, a pocket handkerchief. *Old cant.*

CLOUT, a blow, or intentional strike. *Ancient.*

CLOVER, happiness, or luck.

CLUMP, to strike.

CLY, a pocket. *See* FRISK. *Old cant.*

COACH WHEEL, or TUSHEROON, a crown piece, or five shillings.

COALS, "to call (or pull) over the COALS," to take to task, to scold.

COCKCHAFER, the treadmill.

COCKLES, "to rejoice the COCKLES of one's heart," a vulgar phrase implying great pleasure. *See* PLUCK.

COCKNEY, a native of London. An ancient nickname implying effeminacy, used by the oldest English writers, and derived from the imaginary fool's paradise, or lubberland, *Cockaygne.*

Grose gives Minsheu's comical derivation:—A citizen of London being in the country, and hearing a horse neigh, exclaimed, "*Lord! how that horse laughs.*" A bystander informed him that that noise was called neighing. The next morning, when the cock crowed, the citizen, to show that he had not forgotten what was told him, cried out, "*do you hear how the* COCK NEIGHS?"

COCKS, fictitious narratives, in verse or prose, of murders, fires, and terrible accidents, sold in the streets as true accounts. The man who hawks them, a patterer, often changes the scene of the awful event to suit the taste of the neighbourhood he is trying to delude. Possibly a corruption of *cook*, a cooked statement.

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COCK ROBIN SHOP, a small printer's office, where low wages are paid to journeymen who have never served a regular apprenticeship.

COCKSHYS, a game at fairs and races, where trinkets are set upon sticks, and for one penny three throws at them are accorded, the thrower keeping whatever he knocks off. From the ancient game of throwing, or "shying" at live cocks.

COCKSURE, certain.

COCKY, pert, saucy.

COCKYOLY BIRDS, little birds, frequently called "dickey birds." *Kingsley's Two Years' Ago.*

COCK YOUR EYE, to shut or wink one eye.

COCUM, advantage, luck, cunning, or sly, "to fight COCUM," to be wily and cautious.

CODGER, an old man, "a rum old CODGER," a curious old fellow. CODGER is sometimes used synonymous with CADGER, and then signifies a person who gets his living in a questionable manner. CAGER, or GAGER was the old cant term for a man; and COG is used by *Shakspere* in the sense of to cheat.

COLLAR, to sieze, to lay hold of.

COLLY-WOBBLES, a person's bowels,—supposed by many of the lower orders to be the seat of feeling, and nutrition; an idea, either borrowed from, or transmitted by the ancients. *Devon.*

COLT'S TOOTH, elderly persons are said to have a colt's tooth when they are desirous of appearing young and frolicksome.

COME DOWN, to pay down.

COME-IT, to do anything, or prevail over any person; "you can't come it over me," you cannot trick or persuade me. COMING IT, informing or disclosing.

COMMISSION, a shirt. *Ancient cant.*

COMMISTER, a chaplain or clergyman.

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CONK, a nose. CONKY, having a projecting or remarkable nose,—the Duke of Wellington was frequently termed in satirical papers and caricatures "Old CONKY."

COOLIE, a soldier.

COOK, a term well known in the Bankruptcy courts, referring to accounts that have been meddled with or *cooked* by the bankrupt; also the forming a balance sheet from general trade inferences.

COOK ONE'S GOOSE, to kill or ruin any person. *North.*

COOPER, to destroy, spoil, settle, or finish. COOPER'D, spoilt, "done up," synonymous with the Americanism, CAVED IN, fallen in and ruined.

COOPER, to forge, or imitate in writing; "COOPER a moneker," to forge a signature.

COP, to take hold of anything that is unpleasant.

COPPER, a penny. COPPERS, mixed pence.

CORINTHIANISM, a term much in vogue a few years ago, implying pugilism, high life, sprees, roistering, &c. *Shakspere.*

CORNED, drunk or intoxicated. Possibly from soaking or pickling oneself like CORNED beef.

CORPORATION, the protuberant front of an obese person.

CORPSE, to confuse or put out the actors by making a mistake. *Theat.*

COSSACK, a policeman.

COSTERMONGERS, street sellers of fish, fruit, vegetables, poultry, &c. The London costermongers number more than 30,000. They form a distinct class, occupying whole neighbourhoods, and are cut off from the rest of metropolitan society by their low habits, general improvidence, pugnacity, love of gambling, total want of education, disregard for lawful marriage ceremonies, *and their use of a slang language.*

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COSTER, the short and slang term for a costermonger, or costard-monger, who was originally an apple seller.

COSTERING, the slang term for "costermongering."

COTTON, to like, adhere to, or agree with any person; "to COTTON on to a man," to attach yourself to him, or fancy him, literally, to stick to him as cotton would. Vide *Bartlett*, who claims it as an Americanism; and *Halliwell*, who terms it an Archaism; also *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737.

COUTER, a sovereign. HALF-A-COUTER, half-a-sovereign.

COVE, or COVEY, a boy or man of any age or station. A term generally preceded by an expressive adjective, thus a "flash COVE," a "rum COVE," a "downy COVE," &c. The feminine, COVESS was once popular, but it has fallen into disuse. *Ancient cant*, originally (temp. Hen. VIII.) COFE, or CUFFIN, altered in *Dekkar's* time to COVE.

COVENTRY, "to send a man to COVENTRY," not to speak to or notice him. When the reconciliation takes place he is welcomed as just arrived from Coventry. *Military term and custom.*

COW'S GREASE, butter.

CRAB, or GRAB, a disagreeable old person. *Name of a wild and sour fruit.* "To catch a CRAB," to fall backwards by missing a stroke in rowing.

CRAB, to offend, to insult.

CRABSHELLS, or TROTTING CASES, shoes.

CRACK, first-rate, excellent, "a CRACK-HAND," an adept; a "CRACK article," a good one. *Old.*

CRACK, dry firewood. *Modern Gipsey.*

CRACK-UP, to boast or praise. *An ancient English word.*

CRACKED-UP, penniless, or ruined.

CRACK, "in a CRACK," in a moment.

CRACK-FENCER, a man who sells nuts.

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CRACKING A KIRK, breaking into a church or chapel.

CRACKSMAN, a burglar.

CRAM, to lie, or deceive, implying to fill up or CRAM any person with false stories.

CRAMMER, a lie; or a person who commits a falsehood.

CRANKY, foolish, idiotic. *Ger.* *Ancient cant,* CRANKE, simulated sickness.

CRAP, to ease oneself, to evacuate. *Old Word* for refuse; also *old cant,* CROP.

CRAPPING CASE, a privy, or water-closet.

CRAPPED, hanged.

CREAM OF THE VALLEY, gin.

CRIB, house, public or otherwise, lodgings, apartments.

CRIB, a situation.

CRIB, to steal or purloin.

CRIKEY, exclamation of astonishment, "Oh, CRIKEY, you dont say so!" Corruption of "Oh, CHRIST."

CRIMPS, men who trepan others into the clutches of the recruiting sergeants. They generally pretend to give employment in the Colonies, and in that manner cheat those mechanics who are half famished. *Nearly obsolete.*

CRIPPLE, a bent sixpence.

CROAK, to die,—from the gurgling sound a person makes when the breath of life is departing. *Oxon.*

CROAKER, an inveterate grumbler, one who takes a desponding view of everything; an alarmist. *From the croaking of a raven. Ben Jonson.*

CROAKER, a beggar.

CROAKER, a doctor or physician. CROAKER'S CHOVEY, a chymist's shop.

CROAKS, last dying speeches, and murderers' confessions.

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CROCODILES' TEARS, the tears of a hypocrite. An ancient phrase, introduced into this country by Mandeville, or other early English traveller.

CROKUS, or CROAKUS, a quack or travelling doctor.

CRONY, a termagent or malicious old woman; an intimate friend. *Johnson* calls it cant.

CROPPIE, a person who has had his hair cut, or CROPPED in prison.

CROPPED, hanged.

CROSS, a general term amongst thieves expressive of their plundering profession, the opposite of SQUARE. "To get anything on the CROSS" is to obtain it surreptitiously. "CROSS-FANNING in a crowd," robbing persons of their scarf pins.

CROSS COVE AND MOLLISHER, a man and woman who live by thieving.

CROSS-CRIB, a house frequented by thieves.

CROW, one who watches whilst another commits a theft, a confederate in a robbery. The CROW looks to see that the way is clear, whilst the SNEAK, his partner, commits the depredation.

CRUG, food. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

CRUMMY, fat, plump. *North.*

CRUMMY-DOSS, a lousy or filthy bed.

CRUNCH, to crush. *Corruption.*

CRUSHER, a policeman.

CRUSHING, excellent, first rate.

CRUSTY, ill tempered, petulant, morose. *Old.*

CULL, a man or boy. *Old cant.*

CULLING, stealing from the carriages on race-courses.

CURE, an odd person; a contemptuous term.

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CURRY FAVOUR, to solicit assistance. *Chaucer*, CURY FAVEL, to smooth down.

CURTAIL, to cut off. *Originally a cant word*, vide *Hudibras, and Bacchus and Venus*, 1737.

CUSHION THUMPER, polite rendering of TUB THUMPER, a clergyman, a preacher.

CUSTOMER, synonymous with CHAP, a fellow; a rum CUSTOMER, an odd fish.

CUT, to run away, move off quickly; to cease doing anything; to CUT DIDOES, synonymous with to CUT CAPERS; CUT A DASH, make a show; CUT A CAPER, to dance or show off in a strange manner; CUT A FIGURE, to make either a good or bad appearance; CUT OUT, to excel, thus in affairs of gallantry one Adonis is said to "*cut the other out*" in the affections of the wished for lady; CUT THAT, be quiet, or stop; CUT OUT OF, done out of; CUT OF ONE'S JIB, the expression or cast of his countenance; CUT AND COME AGAIN, plenty, if one cut does not suffice plenty remains to "come again;" CUT UP, mortified, to criticise severely, or expose; CUT UP SHINES, to play tricks; CUT ONE'S STICK, to be off quickly; CUT UNDER, to undersell; CUT YOUR LUCKY, to run off; CUT ONE'S CART, to expose their tricks; CUT AN ACQUAINTANCE, to cease friendly intercourse with them; *Cambridge. Old*; CUTTE, to say.

CUT, tipsey. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

CUTTING, competition in business.

DAB, or DABSTER, an expert person.

DAB, a bed.

DAB, street term for a flat fish of anykind. *Old.*

DACHA-SALTEE, tenpence.

DACHA-ONE, elevenpence.

DADDLES, hands. *Norf.*

DADDY, the stage manager. *Theat.*

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DAGS, feat or performance, "I'll do your DAGS," I will do something that you cannot do.

DAISY KICKERS, the name hostlers at large inns used to give each other, now nearly obsolete. DAISY-KICKER, or GROGHAM, was likewise the cant term for a horse.

The *Daisy-kickers* were sad rogues in the old posting days; frequently the landlords rented the stables to them, as the only plan to make them return a profit.

DANCERS, stairs. *Old cant.*

DANDER, passion, or temper, "to get one's DANDER up," to rouse his passion. *Old.*

DANDY, a fop, or fashionable nondescript. This word, in the sense of a fop, is of modern origin. *Egan* says it was first used in 1820, and *Bee* in 1816. Johnson does not mention it, although it is to be found in all late dictionaries. DANDIES wore stays, studied feminity, and tried to undo their manhood. Lord Petersham headed them. At the present day dandies of this stamp are fast disappearing.

DANNA, excrement.

DANNA DRAG, a nightman's or dustman's cart.

DARBIES, handcuffs. *Old cant.*

DARBLE, the devil. *French,* DIABLE.

DARKEY, twilight. DARKMANS, the night.

DAVY'S LOCKER, or DAVY JONES' LOCKER, a nautical phrase for death; the other world.

DAVY, "on my DAVY," on my affidavit, of which it is a vulgar corruption.

DAYLIGHTS, eyes, "to darken his *daylights*," to give a person black eyes.

DEAD-LURK, entering a dwelling-house during divine service.

DEAD MEN, the term for wine bottles after they are emptied of their contents. *Old.*

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DEANER, a shilling. *Prov.*

DEATH-HUNTERS, running patterers, who vend last dying speeches and confessions.

DEE, a pocket book, term used by tramps. *Gipsey.*

DEMIREP, a courtezan. Contraction of DEMI-REPUTATION, *Grose.*

DESPATCHES, false "Dice with two sides, double four, double five, and double six."—*Times,* Nov. 27, 1856.

DEUCE, the devil. *Old.*

DEUCE, twopence.

DEWSKITCH, a good thrashing.

DIBBS, money.

DICKEY, bad, sorry, or foolish; food or lodging is pronounced DICKEY when of a poor description; "it's all DICKEY with him," *i.e.* all over with him.

DICKEY, formerly the cant for a worn out shirt, but means now-a-days a front or half-shirt.

DICKY, a donkey.

DICKENS, synonymous with devil, "what the dickens are you after," what the d—l are you doing. Used by *Shakspere* in the *Merry Wives of Windsor.*

DIDDLE, to cheat, or defraud. *Old.*

DIDDLER, or JEREMY DIDDLER, an artful swindler.

DIDDLE, old cant word for geneva, or gin.

DIDOES, pranks or capers, "to cut up DIDOES," to make pranks.

DIES, last dying speeches, and criminal trials.

DIGS, hard blows.

DIGGERS, spurs.

DIGGINGS, lodgings, apartments, residence.

DILLY DALLY, to trifle.

DIMBER, neat or pretty. *Worc.,* but old cant.

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DIMBER DAMBER, very pretty; a clever rogue who excels his fellows. *Old cant* in the latter sense. *Eng. Rogue.*

DINARLY, money, "nantee DINARLY," I have no money.

DING, to strike; to throw away, or get rid of anything.

DIPPED, mortgaged. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

DISGUISED, intoxicated. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

DISH, to stop, to do away with, to suppress; DISHED, done for, floored, beaten, or silenced.

DIVE, to pick pockets.

DIVERS, pickpockets.

DO, this useful and industrious verb has for many years done service as a slang term. To DO a person is to cheat him. Sometimes another tense is employed, such as "I DONE him," meaning I cheated or "paid him out;" DONE BROWN, cheated thoroughly, befooled; DONE UP, used up, finished, or quieted. DONE also means convicted, or sentenced; so does DONE-FOR. To DO a person in pugilism is to excel him in fisticuffs. Humphreys, who fought Mendoza, a Jew, wrote this laconic note to his supporter—"Sir,—I have DONE the Jew, and am in good health. Rich. Humphries."

DODGE, a cunning trick. "DODGE, that homely but expressive phrase.—*Sir Hugh Cairns on the Reform Bill*, March 2, 1859. *A. S.*, DEOGIAN, to colour, to conceal.

DODGER, a tricky person, or one who, to use the popular phrase, "knows too much."

DODGER, a dram. In *Kent*, a DODGER signifies a nightcap; which name is often given to the last dram at night.

DOG-CHEAP, or DOG-FOOLISH, very, or singularly cheap, or foolish. *Old term.*

DOG-LATIN, barbarous Latin, such as was formerly used by lawyers in their pleadings.

DOGNOSE, gin and beer.

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DOLLOP, a lump or portion. *Norfolk.*

DOLLY SHOP, an illegal pawnshop,—where goods, or stolen property not good enough for the pawnbroker are received, and charged at so much per day. If not redeemed the third day the goods are forfeited. *A. S.* DAEL, a part, to dole? *See* NIX.

DOMINE, a parson.

DOMINOS, the teeth.

DON, a clever fellow, the opposite of a MUFF. *Span.*

DONE FOR A RAMP, convicted for thieving.

DONNA AND FEELES, a woman and children. *Span. and French.*

DOOKIN, fortune telling.

DOSS, a bed. *North.* Corruption of DOZE. Mayhew thinks it is from the Norman, DOSSEL, a hanging, or bed canopy.

DOSS, to sleep.

DOSS-KEN, a lodging house.

DOUBLE, "to tip (or give) the DOUBLE," to run away from any person. *Sporting.*

DOUBLE-SHUFFLE, a low, shuffling, noisy dance, common amongst costermongers.

DOUSE, to put out, "DOUSE that glim," put out that candle. *Sea.*

DOWD, a woman's nightcap. *Devon;* also an *American* term: possibly from DOWDY, a slatternly woman.

DOWN THE DOLLY, a favourite gambling contrivance, often seen in the tap rooms of public houses, at race-courses and fairs; consisting of a round board and the figure of an old man or "doll," down which is a spiral hole. A marble is dropped "down the dolly," and stops in one of the small holes or pits (numbered) on the board. The bet is decided according as the marble stops on a high or low figure.

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DOWN, to be aware of, or awake to any move,—in this meaning, —synonymous with UP; "DOWN upon one's luck," unfortunate; "DOWN in the mouth," disconsolate.

DOWN THE ROAD, stylish, showy, after the fashion.

DOWNY, knowing or cunning, "a DOWNY COVE," a knowing or experienced sharper.

DOWRY, a lot, a great deal, "DOWRY of parny," lot of rain or water.

DOWNS, Tothill Fields' prison.

DOXY, the female companion of a thief or beggar. In the West of England, the women frequently call their little girls DOXIES in a familiar or endearing sense. *Ancient cant.*

DRAG, a cart of anykind, a coach; gentlemen drive to the races in drags.

DRAG, a street, or road; BACK-DRAG, back street.

DRAG, or THREE MOON, three months in prison.

DRAGGING, robbing carts, &c.

DRAGSMEN, fellows who cut trunks from the backs of carriages. They sometimes have a light cart and "drop behind" the plundered vehicle, and then drive off in an opposite direction with the booty.

DRAW, "come, DRAW it mild," *i.e.* dont exaggerate.

DRAWERS, formerly the ancient cant name for very long stockings; now a hosier's term.

DRAWING TEETH, wrenching off knockers.

DRIZ, lace. In a low lodging house this singular autograph inscription appeared over the mantelpiece, "Scotch Mary, with 'DRIZ' (lace), bound to Dover and back, please God."

DRIZ FENCER, a person who sells lace.

DROP, to quit, go off, or turn aside, "DROP the main Tobey," go off the main road.

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DROPPED OFF THE HOOKS, said of a deceased person.

DRUM, a house, a lodging, a street.

DRUMMER, a robber who first makes his victims insensible by drugs or violence, and then plunders them.

DUB, to pay or give; "DUB UP," pay up.

DUBLIN PACKET, to turn a corner; to "take the DUBLIN PACKET," viz., run round the corner.

DUBS, a bunch of keys. *Nearly obsolete.*

DUBSMAN, or SCREW, a turnkey.

DUCE, twopence.

DUCED, or DEUCED, devilish.

DUDDERS, persons who formerly travelled the country as pedlars selling waistcoat pieces, sham jewelry, &c., to countrymen. In selling a waistcoat piece for thirty shillings or two pounds, which cost them perhaps five shillings, they would show great fear of the Revenue Officer, and beg of the purchasing clodhopper to *kneel down in a puddle of water, crook his arm, and swear that it might never become straight if he told an exciseman, or even his own wife.* The term and practice are nearly obsolete. In Liverpool, however, and at the East end of London, men dressed up as sailors, with pretended silk handkerchiefs and cigars "only just smuggled from the Indies," are still to be plentifully found.

DUDS, clothes, or personal property. *Gaelic,* DUD, *Ancient cant.*

DUFF, pudding. *North.*

DUFFER, a sham, a fool; "a DUFFING shilling," a bad or counterfeit shilling. A DUFFER is also synonymous with DUDDER, which see. Old term for a pedlar. From the *Ger.,* DURFFEN, to want?

DUFFING, false, counterfeit, worthless.

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DUKE, gin. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

DUMB-FOUND, to perplex, to beat soundly till not able to speak. Originally a cant word. *Johnson* cites the *Spectator* for the earliest use.

DUMMY, in three-handed whist the person who holds two hands plays DUMMY.

DUMMY, a pocket book.

DUMP FENCER, a man who sells buttons.

DUMPY, short and stout.

DUMPISH, sullen, or glumpy.

DUN, to solicit payment. *Old cant*, from Dun, a famous hangman; or from the *Saxon*, DUNAN, to clamour?

DUNAKER, a stealer of cows or calves. *Nearly obsolete.*

DUNG, an operative who works for an employer who does not give full or "society" wages.

DUNNAGE, clothes.

DUNNY-KEN, a watercloset.

DURRYNACKING, offering lace or any other other article as an introduction to fortune-telling; generally pursued by women.

DUST, money, "down with the DUST," put down the money. *Ancient.* Dean Swift once took for his text, "He who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." His sermon was short. "Now my brethren," said he, "if you are satisfied with the security, down with the DUST."

DUST, a disturbance, or noise, "to raise a DUST," to make a row.

DUTCH CONSOLATION, "thank God it is no worse."

DUTCH CONCERT, where each performer plays a different tune.

DUTCH FEAST, where the host gets drunk before his guest.

DOUBLE DUTCH, gibberish, or any foreign tongue.

EASE, to rob; "EASING a bloak," robbing a man.

EGG, or EGG ON, to excite, stimulate, or provoke one person to quarrel with another, &c. *Cor. of edge, or edge on. Ancient.*

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ELBOW GREASE, labour, or industry.

EVAPORATE, to go, or run away.

EVERLASTING STAIRCASE, the treadmill. Sometimes called "Colonel Chesterton's everlasting staircase," from the gallant inventor or improver.

EYE WATER, gin.

FADGE, a farthing.

FADGE, to suit or fit, "it wont FADGE," it will not do. Used by *Shakspere*, but now heard only in the streets.

FAG, to beat, also one boy working for another at school.

FAG, a schoolboy who performs a servant's offices to a superior school-mate. *Grose* thinks FAGGED OUT is derived from this.

FAGGOT, a term of opprobrium used by low people to children, "you little FAGGOT, you!"

FAKE, to cheat, or swindle; to do anything; to go on, or continue; to make or construct; to steal or rob,—a verb variously used. FAKED, done, or done for; "FAKE away, there's no down," go on, there is nobody looking. *Mayhew* says it is from the *Latin*, FACIMENTUM.

FAKEMENT, a false begging petition, any act of robbery, swindling, or deception.

FAKING A CLY, picking a pocket.

FAKMENT CHARLEY, the owner's private mark.

FAKER, one who makes or FAKES anything.

FAMBLES, or FAMMS, the hands. *Ancient cant.*

FAMILY MEN, or PEOPLE, thieves, or burglars.

FAN, a waistcoat.

FANCY, the favourite sports, pets, or pastime of a person. Pugilists are sometimes termed THE FANCY. *Shakspere* uses the word in the sense of a favourite, or pet.

FANCY BLOAK, a fancy or sporting man.

FAN-TAIL, a dustman's hat.

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FAST, gay, spreeish, unsteady, thoughtless,—an Americanism that has of late ascended from the streets to the drawing-room. The word has certainly now a distinct meaning which it had not thirty years ago. QUICK is the synonym for FAST, but a QUICK MAN would not convey the meaning of a FAST MAN,—a person who by late hours, gaiety, and continual rounds of pleasure, lives too fast and wears himself out. In polite society a FAST young lady is one who wishes to see all the new pieces at the theatres, attend all the horticultural shows, and bore papa to death for new dresses and bonnets. This *fastness* sometimes takes other directions. *North.*

FAT, a printer's term signifying the void spaces on a page, for which he is paid at the same rate as full or unbroken pages. This work afforded much FAT for the printers.

FATHER, or FENCE, a buyer of stolen property.

FAWNEY, a finger ring.

FAWNEY BOUNCING, selling rings for a wager. This practice is founded upon the old tale of a gentleman laying a wager that if he was to offer "real gold sovereigns" at a penny a piece at the foot of London Bridge, the English public would be too incredulous to buy. The story states that the gentleman stationed himself with sovereigns in a tea tray, and sold only two within the hour,—winning the bet. This tale the FAWNEY BOUNCERS tell the public, only offering brass, double gilt rings, instead of sovereigns.

FAWNEY, or FAWNEY RIG, ring dropping. A few years ago, this practice or RIG was very common. A fellow purposely dropped a ring, or a pocket book with some little articles of jewellery, &c. in it, and when he saw any person pick it up, ran to claim half. The ring found, the question of how the booty was to be divided had then to be decided. The *Fawney* says, "if you will give me eight or nine shillings for my share the things are yours." This the FLAT thinks very fair. The ring of course is valueless, and the swallower of the bait discovers the trick too late.

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FEATHERS, money, wealth.

FEEDER, a spoon. *Old cant.*

FEELE, a daughter. *Corrupted French.*

FEELES, children. *Corrupted French.*

FELT, a hat. *Old term in use in the sixteenth century.*

FENCE, or FENCER, a purchaser or receiver of stolen goods; the shop or warehouse of a FENCER. *Old cant.*

FENCE, to sell or pawn stolen property to a FENCER.

FERRICADOUZER, a good thrashing.

FIB, to beat, or strike. *Old cant.*

FIDDLE, to trifle.

FIDDLE FADDLE, twaddle, or trifling discourse. *Old cant.*

FIDDLER, or FADGE, a farthing.

FIDDLER, a sixpence (?) *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

FIDDLERS' MONEY, a lot of sixpences,—6d. was the remuneration to fiddlers from each of the company in old times.

FIDDLE, a whip.

FIDDLING, doing any odd jobs in the streets, holding horses, carrying parcels, &c., for a living. Among the middle classes, FIDDLING means idling away time, or trifling; and amongst sharpers, it means gambling.

FID FAD, a game similar to chequers, or drafts, played in the West of England.

FIDLUM BEN, thieves who take anything they can lay their hands upon.

FIGURE, "to cut a good or bad FIGURE," to make a good or indifferent appearance; "what's the FIGURE?" how much is to pay?

FILCH, to steal, or purloin. Originally a cant word, derived from the FILCHES, or hooks thieves used to carry, to hook clothes

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or any portable articles from open windows: vide *Decker*. It was considered a cant or gipsey term up to the beginning of the last century. *Harman* has "FYLCHE, to robbe."

FILE, a deep, or artful man, a jocose name for a cunning person. Originally a term for a pickpocket, when TO FILE was to cheat or rob. FILE, an artful man, was used in the XIIIth and XIVth centuries.

FINDER, one who FINDS bacon and meat at the market before they are lost, *i.e.* steals them.

FINUF, a five-pound note. DOUBLE FINUF, a ten-pound note.

FIZZING, first-rate, very good, excellent, synonymous with STUNNING.

FLABERGASTED, astonished, or wonder struck. *Old.*

FLAG, a groat, or 4d. *Ancient cant.*

FLAG, an apron.

FLAG OF DISTRESS, poverty,—when the end of a person's shirt protrudes through the trousers.

FLAM, nonsense, blarney, a lie. *Kent, A.S.*

FLIM FLAMS, idle stories. *Beaumont and Fletcher.*

FLASH, showy and knowing; a word with various meanings. A person is said to be dressed FLASH, when his garb is showy and after a fashion, but without taste. A person is said to be FLASH when he apes the appearance or manners of his betters, or when he is trying to be superior to his friends and relations. FLASH also means "fast," roguish, and sometimes infers counterfeit or deceptive, and this perhaps is its general signification. "FLASH, my young friend, or slang, as others call it, is the classical language of the Holy Land; in other words, St. Giles' Greek."—*Tom and Jerry, by Moncreiff.* Vulgar language was first termed FLASH in the year 1718, by Hitchin, author of "*The Regulator of Thieves, &c., with account of* FLASH *words.*"

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FLASH IT, show it,—said when any bargain is offered.

FLAT, a fool, a silly or "soft" person, the opposite of SHARP. The terms appear to be shortnings for "sharp-witted," and "flat-witted." "Oh! Messrs. Tyler, Donelson, and the rest, what FLATS you are."—*Times*, 5 Sep., 1847.

FLATTIES, rustic, or uninitiated people.

FLATTY-KEN, a public house, the landlord of which is ignorant of the practices of thieves and tramps.

FLESH-BAG, a shirt.

FLIMP, to hustle, or rob.

FLIMSIES, bank notes.

FLINT, an operative who works for a "society" master,—full wages.

FLIP, to shoot. *Som.*

FLIPPER, the hand, "give us your FLIPPER," give me your hand.

FLOG, to whip. Cited both by *Grose* and the author of *Bacchus and Venus* as a cant word. It would be curious to ascertain the earliest use. *Richardson* cites Lord Chesterfield. *Lat.*

FLOGGER, a whip. *Obsolete.*

FLOOR, to knock down. *Pug.*

FLOORER, a blow sufficiently strong to knock a man down.

FLOWERY, lodging, or house entertainment, "square the omee for the FLOWERY," pay the master for the lodging.

FLUE FAKERS, low sporting characters.

FLUFF IT, a term of disapprobation implying "take it away, I dont want it."

FLUKE, an unexpected and favourable stroke at billiards.

FLUMMERY, flattery, gammon, genteel nonsense.

FLUMMUXED, done up, sure of a month in QUOD, or prison.

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FLUMMUX, to perplex, hinder; FLUMMUXED, stopped, used up.

FLUNKEY, a footman, servant. *Scot.*

FLUSH, the opposite of HARD UP, in possession of money, not poverty stricken. *Shaks.*

FLY, knowing, wide awake, fully understanding another's meaning; to lift, toss, or raise, "fly the MAGS," toss up the halfpence.

FLYING THE KITE, raising money on bills, whether good or bad, alluding to tossing paper about like children do a kite.

FLYING STATIONERS, paper-workers, hawkers of penny ballads, "Printed for the Flying Stationers" is the imprimatur on hundreds of penny histories, and sheet songs of the last and present centuries.

FLYMY, knowing, cunning, roguish.

FOGEY, or OLD FOGEY, a dullard, an old-fashioned or singular person. *Grose* says it is a nickname for an invalid soldier, from the *French, fourgeaux*, fierce or fiery, but it has lost this signification now.

FOGGY, tipsy.

FOGLE, a handkerchief.

FOGUS, tobacco. *Old cant.* FOGO, *old word for stench.*

FOONT a sovereign, or 20s.

FORK OUT, to bring out one's money, to pay the bill, to STAND FOR or treat a friend; to hand over what does not belong to you. Ancient cant term for picking pockets, and very curious it is to trace its origin. In the early part of the last century, a little book on purloining was published, and, of course it had to give the latest modes. FORKING was the newest method, and it consisted in thrusting the fingers stiff and open into the pocket, and then quickly closing them and extracting any article.

FORKS, or GRABBLING IRONS, fingers.

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FORTY GUTS, vulgar term for a fat man,

FOUR AND NINE, or FOUR AND NINEPENNY GOSS, a cheap hat, so called from 4s. 9d., the price at which a noted advertising hat maker sold his hats.

FOX, to cheat or rob. *Eton. Coll.*

FOXING, watching in the streets for any occurrence which may be turned to profitable account. *See* MOOCHING.

FOXING, to pretend to be asleep, like a fox.

FOXY, rank, tainted. *Linc.*

FREE, to steal,—generally applied to horses.

FREE AND EASY, a club held at most public houses, the members of which meet in the taproom or parlour for the purpose of drinking, smoking, and hearing each other sing, and "talk politics." The name indicates the character of the proceedings.

FREEMAN'S QUAY, "drinking at FREEMAN'S QUAY," *i.e.* at another's cost. This quay was formerly a celebrated wharf near London Bridge, and the saying arose from the beer which was given gratis to porters and carmen who came there on business.

FRENCH LEAVE, to leave or depart slyly, without saying anything.

FRISK, to search; FRISKED, searched by a constable or other officer.

FRISK A CLY, to empty a pocket.

FROW, a girl, or wife. *German.*

FRUMMAGEMMED, annihilated, strangled, garotted, or spoilt. *Old cant.*

FRUMP, a slatternly woman, a gossip. *Ancient.*

FRUMP, to mock, or insult. *Beaumont and Fletcher.*

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FUDGE, nonsense, stupidity. *Todd and Richardson* only trace the word to *Goldsmith*. *Disraeli*, however, gives the origin to a Captain Fudge, a great fibber, who told monstrous stories, which made his crew say in answer to any improbability, "you FUDGE it!" See *Remarks on the Navy*, 1700.

FUNK, to smoke out. *North*. FUNK, to be afraid, nervous, or disconsolate.

FYE-BUCK, a sixpence. *Nearly obsolete*.

GAB, GABBER, or GABBLE, talk, "gift of the GAB," loquacity, or natural talent for speech making. *A. N.*

GAD, a trapesing, slatternly woman. *Gipsey*.

GADDING THE HOOF, going without shoes. GADDING, roaming about, although used in an old translation of the Bible, is now only heard amongst the lower orders.

GAFF, a fair, or penny playhouse. *See* PENNY GAFF.

GAFFING, tossing half-pence, or counters. *North*, where it means tossing up three pennies.

GALENY, old cant term for a fowl of anykind; now a respectable word in the West of England, signifying a china hen. Vide *Grose*. *Latin*, GALLINA.

GALLAVANTING, waiting upon the ladies. *Old*.

GALLORE, abundance.

GALLOWS, very, or exceedingly; a disgusting exclamation; "GALLOWS poor," very poor.

GAME, a term variously applied—"are you GAME?" have you courage enough? "what's your little GAME," what are you going to do? "come, none of your GAMES," be quiet, dont annoy me; "on the GAME," out thieving.

GAMMON, to hoax, to deceive merrily, to laugh at a person, to tell an untrue but plausible story. The acknowledged meaning is the leg of a hog, and a play at dice. *Ital.* GAMBANE. *Old Eng.* GAMENE.

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GAMMON, deceit, humbug, a false and ridiculous story. *A. S.*, GAMEN, game, sport?

GAMMY, bad, unfavourable, poor tempered. Those householders who are known enemies to the street folk, and tramps, are pronounced by them to be GAMMY. GAMMY sometimes means forged, as "GAMMY-MONEKER," a forged signature. *Hants.*, GAMY, dirty.

GAMMY-VIAL (Ville), a town where the police will not let persons hawk.

GARRET, the head.

GARRET, the fob pocket.

GATTER, beer, "shant of GATTER," a pot of beer.

GAWFS, cheap red-skinned apples, a favourite fruit with costermongers, who rub them well with a piece of cloth, and find ready purchasers.

GAWKY, a lanky, or awkward person; a fool. *Sax.*, GEAC.

GEN, a shilling.

GENT, a contraction of "gentleman,"—in more senses than one. A dressy, showy, foppish man, with a little mind, who vulgarizes the prevailing fashion.

GENT, silver. From ARGENT, *French.*

GHOST, "the GHOST does'nt walk," *i.e.* the manager is too poor to pay salaries as yet. *Theat. Ho. Words*, No. 183.

GIB, face, "the cut of his GIB," his appearance. *Sea.*

GIBBERISH, unmeaning jargon; the language of the Gipsies,—synonymous with SLANG, another *Gipsey* word. Somner says, "*Fr.*, GABBER; *Dutch*, GABBEREN; and our own GAB, GABBER; hence also, I take it, our GIBBERISH, a kind of canting language used by a sort of rogues we vulgarly call Gipsies, a *gibble gabble* understood only among themselves." *Gipsey.*

GIFT, any article which has been stolen and afterwards sold at a low price.

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GIG, a farthing. Formerly, GRIG.

GIG, fun, frolic, a spree.

GIGLAMPS, spectacles. *University.*

GILL, a homely woman, "Jack and GILL," &c. *Ben Jonson.*

GILLS, the lower part of the face. *Bacon.*

GILLS, shirt collars

GINGERLY, to do anything with great care. *Cotgrave.*

GINGUMBOB, a bauble.

GIP, a college servant. *Greek.*

GIVE, to strike or scold, "I'll GIVE it to you," I will thrash you. Formerly, *to rob.*

GIVE THE SLIP, to run away, to effectually elude pursuit by hiding or taking a bye-road or passage.

GLASGOW MAGISTRATES, salt herrings. *Scotch.*

GLAZE, glass,—generally applied to windows.

GLIM, candle, lamp, "dowse the GLIM," put the candle out. *Sea, and old cant.*

GLIM LURK, a begging paper, giving a certified account of a dreadful fire,—which never happened.

GLOAK, a man. *Scotch.*

GLUMP, to sulk.

GLUMPISH, of a stubborn, sulky temper.

GNOSTICS, knowing ones, or sharpers. *Nearly obsolete in this vulgar sense.*

GO, a GO of gin, a quartern of that liquor; GO is also synonymous with circumstance or occurrence, "a rummy GO," or "a great GO," signify curious and remarkable occurrences; "no GO," no good; "here's a pretty GO," here's a pretty trouble; "to GO the jump," to enter a house by the window; "all the GO," in fashion.

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GO-ALONG, a thief. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

GOB, the mouth; mucus, or saliva. *North.* Sometimes used for GAB, talk—

> There was a man called *Job*,
> Dwelt in the land of Uz;
> He had a good gift of the GOB;
> The same case happen us.
> ZACH. BOYD.

GOB, a portion.

GOB, mucus, or saliva. *North.*

GODS, the people in the upper gallery of a theatre; "up amongst the GODS," a seat amongst the low persons in the gallery,—so named from the high position of the gallery, and the blue sky generally painted on the ceiling of the theatre.

GOLDFINCH, a sovereign.

GONNOF, or GUN, a thief, an amateur pickpocket.

GOOSEBERRY, to "play up old GOOSEBERRY" with any one is to defeat or silence a person in a quick or summary manner.

GOOSECAP, a booby, or noodle. *Devon.*

GOOSED, ruined, or spoilt.

GOOSER, a settler, or finisher.

GORGER, a swell, a well dressed, or *gorgeous* man,—probably derived from that word.

GOSPEL GRINDER, a city missionary, or tract distributor.

GOSS, a hat,—from the gossamer silk with which modern hats are made.

GOUCROCK HAM, salt herrings. *Scotch.*

GOVERNOR, a father.

GRABB, to clutch, or seize.

GRABBED, caught, apprehended.

GRABBERS, the hands.

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GRABBLING IRONS, fingers.

GRAFT, to go to work.

GRANNY, to know, or recognise, "de ye GRANNY the bloke?" do you know the man.

GRANNY, importance, knowledge, pride, "take the GRANNY off them as has white hands," viz., remove their self-conceit. *Mayhew*, Vol. 1, p. 364.

GRASS, "gone to GRASS," absconded, or disappeared suddenly; "oh, go to GRASS," a common answer to a troublesome or inquisitive person,—possibly a corruption of "go to GRACE," *grace* being written GRAS in olden times.

GRAYS, half-pennies, with either two "heads" or two "tails,"—both sides alike. *Low Gamblers* use GRAYS, and they cost from 2d. to 6d. each.

GREASING a man is bribing; SOAPING is flattering him.

GREEKS, the low Irish. ST. GILES' GREEK, slang or cant language. *Cotgrave* gives "MERIE GREEK" as a definition for a roystering fellow, a drunkard. *Shaks.*

GREEN, ignorant, not wide awake, inexperienced. *Shaks.* "Do you see any GREEN in my eye?" ironical question in a dispute.

GREEN HORN, a fresh, simple, or uninitiated person.

GRIDDLING, singing in the streets.

GRIDDLER, a person who sings in the streets without songs.

GRUB, meat, or food, of any kind,—GRUB signifying food, and BUB, drink.

GRUBBIN-KEN, or SPINIKIN, a workhouse.

GRUBBY, musty, or old-fashioned. *Devon.*

GUMPTION, or RUMGUMPTION, comprehension, capacity.

GUTTER BLOOD, a low or vulgar man. *Scotch.*

GUTTER LANE, the throat.

GYP, an errand boy. *Cambridge;* said to be from the *Greek*, GUPS.

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HADDOCK, a purse. *See* BEANS.

HALF A BEAN, half a sovereign.

HALF A BULL, two shillings and sixpence.

HALF A COUTER, half a sovereign.

HALF A HOG, sixpence.

HALF A STRETCH, six months in prison.

HALF A TUSHEROON, half a crown.

HALF FOOLISH, ridiculous; means often *wholly* foolish.

HALF JACK. *See* JACKS.

HALF SEAS OVER, reeling drunk. *Sea.*

HAND, a workman, or helper.

HANDLE, a nose; a title, or high sounding name; also a term in boxing, "HANDLING one's fists."

HAND-SAW, or CHIVE FENCER, a man who sells razors and knives in the streets.

HANDSELLER, or CHEAP JACK, a street or open air seller, a man who carries goods to his customers, instead of waiting for his customers to visit him. From the *Scotch, handsel*, the first money a trader takes in the day,—in England called "lucky money." "Legs of mutton (street term for sheep's trotters or feet) two for a penny;—who'll give me a HANDSELL,—who'll give me a HANDSELL?—*Cry at Cloth Fair at the present day.*

HANDSELL, to hawk goods.

HANG OUT, to reside,—in allusion to the ancient custom of *hanging out* signs.

HA'PURTH OF LIVELINESS, the music at a low concert, or theatre.

HARD LINES, hardship, difficulty.

HARD UP, in distress, poverty stricken. *Sea.*

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HARD-UPS, cigar-end finders, who collect the refuse pieces of smoked cigars from the gutter, and having dried them, sell them as tobacco to the very poor.

HAY BAG, a woman.

HAZY, intoxicated. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

HEAP, "a HEAP of people," a crowd; "struck all of a HEAP," suddenly astonished.

HEAVY WET, porter or beer,—because the more a man drinks of it, the heavier he becomes.

HELL, a fashionable gambling house.

HEN AND CHICKENS, large and small pewter pots.

HERRING POND, the sea, "to be sent across the HERRING POND," to be transported.

HIDE, to beat, or thrash.

HIDING, a thrashing. *Webster* gives this word but not its root, HIDE.

HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY, all together,—as hogs and pigs lie.

HIGH-FLYER, a genteel beggar, or swindler.

HIGH-FLYERS, large swings, in frames, at fairs and races.

HIP INSIDE, inside coat pocket.

HIP OUTSIDE, outside coat pocket.

HOAX, to deceive, or ridicule; *Grose* says was originally a UNIVERSITY cant word. Corruption of HOCUS, to cheat.

HOCKS, the feet.

HOCUS, to give any one drugged liquor and commit a depredation upon their persons whilst in a stupor.

HOCUS POCUS, Gipsey words of magic, similar to the modern "presto fly." The Gipsies pronounce "*Habeas Corpus,*" HAWOUS PACCUS, (see *Crabb's Gypsey's Advocate* (page 18), can this have anything to do with the origin of HOCUS POCUS? *Turner* gives OCHUS BOCHUS, an old demon; and Pegge, HOC EST CORPUS as the originals.

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HODGE, a countryman or provincial clown. I dont know that it has been elsewhere remarked, but most country districts in England have one or more families of the name of HODGE; indeed, GILES and HODGE appear to be the favourite hobnail nomenclature. Not in any way writing disrespectfully, was the slang word taken from Hog,—with the *g* soft, which gives the *dg* pronunciation? In old canting dictionaries HODGE stands for a country clown, also ROGER, another favourite provincialism. Vide *Bacchus and Venus.*

HOG, "to go the whole HOG," to do anything with a person's entire strength, not "by halves;" realized by the phrase "in for a penny in for a pound." *Bartlett* claims this to be a pure *American* phrase; whilst *Ker*, of course, gives it a *Dutch* origin. *Old.*

HOG, a shilling. *Old cant.*

HOISTING, shoplifting.

HOLLOW, "to beat HOLLOW," to excel.

HOLY LAND, Seven Dials.

HOOK, to steal, or rob. *See the following.*

HOOK OR BY CROOK, by fair means or foul,—in allusion to the hook which footpads used to carry to steal from open windows, &c., and from which HOOK, to take or steal, has been derived. Mentioned in *Hudibras* as a cant term.

HOOK IT, "get out of the way," or "be off about your business;" "TO HOOK IT," to run away, to decamp. "On one's own HOOK," dependant upon one's own exertions. *See the preceding for derivation.*

HOOKEY WALKER! exclamation of surprise at any story known to be false, usually shortened to WALKER!—which see.

HOOK-UM-SNIVEY (formerly hook *and* snivey,") a low expression meaning to cheat by feigning sickness or other means.

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HOP, a dance,—fasionable slang.

HOP THE TWIG, to run away, or BOLT,—which see.

HORRID HORN, term of reproach amongst the street Irish, meaning a fool, or half witted fellow. From the *Erse* OMADHAUN, a brainless fellow.

HORSE, contraction of Horsemonger-lane gaol.

HORSENAILS, money.

HORSE'S NIGHTCAP, a halter; "to die in a HORSE'S NIGHTCAP," to be hung.

HOXTER, an inside pocket.

HUEY, a town, or village.

HUFF, to vex, or offend; a poor temper.

HULKY, extra sized. *Salop.*

HUM AND HAW, to hesitate, raise objections. *Old.*

HUMBUG, an imposition, or a person who imposes upon others. A very expressive but slang word, synonymous at one time with HUM AND HAW. Lexicographers have fought shy at adopting this word. Richardson uses it frequently to express the meaning of other words, but omits it in the alphabetical arrangement as unworthy of recognition! I have been able to trace the word back for a century, but no farther. *Halliwell* describes it as "a person who hums," and cites Dean Milles' MS. which was written about 1760. It has been stated that the word is a corruption of Hamburgh, from which town so many false bulletins and reports came during the war in the last century. "Oh, that is *Hamburgh* [OR HUMBUG]", was the answer to any fresh piece of news, which smacked of improbability. *Grose* mentions it in 1785.

HUM-DRUM, tedious, tiresome, boring; "A society of gentlemen who used to meet near the Charter House, or at the King's Head, St. John's Street. They were characterized by less mystery and more pleasantry than the Freemasons." *Bacchus and Venus,* 1737. In the *West* a low cart.

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HUMP, to botch, or spoil.

HUMPTY DUMPTY, short and thick.

HUNCH, to shove, or jostle.

HUNTER PITCHING, cockshys, or three throws a penny. See *Cockshys.*

HUNTING THE SQUIRREL, when hackney and stage coachmen try to upset each other's vehicles on the public roads. *Nearly obsolete.*

HURDY-GURDY, a droning musical instrument shaped like a large fiddle.

HYPS, the blue devils. *From Hypochondriac.*

INEXPRESSIBLES, trousers.

IN FOR IT, in trouble or difficulty of any kind.

IN FOR PATTER, waiting for trial.

INSIDE LINING, dinner, &c.

IN STIR, to be in prison.

IT'S GOOD ON THE STAR, its easy to open.

IVORIES, teeth; "wash your IVORIES," drink.

JABBER, to talk, or chatter. A cant word in *Swift's* time.

JACKS AND HALF JACKS, card counters, resembling in size and appearance sovereigns and half sovereigns, for which they are occasionally passed to simple persons. In large gambling establishments the "heaps of gold" are frequently composed mainly of JACKS.

JACK KETCH, the public hangman.

JACKETING, a thrashing.

JACKEY, gin.

JACK SPRAT, a diminutive boy or man.

JACK TAR, a sailor.

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JACOB, a ladder. *Grose* says from Jacob's dream. *Old cant.*

JAGGER, a gentleman. *Scotch.*

JAMES, a sovereign.

JARK, a seal, or watch ornament. *Ancient cant.*

JARVEY'S UPPER BENJAMIN, a coachman's great coat.

JAW, speech, or talk, "hold your JAW," dont speak any more; "what are you JAWING about," *i.e.* what are you making a noise about.

JAW-BREAKERS, hard or many syllabled words.

JAZEY, a wig. *Old cant.*

JEMMY, a crowbar.

JEMMY, a sheep's head.

JERRY, a beer house.

JERRY, a chamber utensil. *Ancient cant,* GERRY, Excrement.

JERRY, a fog.

JERUSALEM PONY, a donkey.

JEW'S EYE, a popular simile for anything valuable. In ancient times when a king was short of cash, he generally issued orders for so many *Jews' eyes,* or equivalent sums of money. The Jews prefered paying the ransom, although often very heavy. We thus realize the *supposed* origin of JEW'S EYE. Used by *Shakspere.*

JEW-FENCER, a Jew street salesman.

JIB, the face, or a person's expression; "the cut of his JIB," *i. e.* his peculiar appearance. *Sea.*

JIB, or JIBBER, a horse that starts or shrinks. *Shakspere* uses it in the sense of a worn out horse.

JIBB, the tongue. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*

JIFFY, "in a JIFFY," in a moment.

JIGGER, a distill. *Scotch.*

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JIGGER, a door; "dub the JIGGER," shut the door. *Ancient cant*, GYGER.

JIGGER-DUBBERS, term applied to jailors or turnkeys.

JILT, a crowbar or housebreaking implement.

JOB, a short piece of work, a prospect of employment. *Johnson* describes JOB as a low word, without etymology. It is, and was, however, a cant word, and A JOB, two centuries ago, was an arranged robbery. Even at the present day it is mainly confined to the streets, in the sense of employment for a short time.

To JOE BLAKE THE BARTLEMY, to visit a low woman.

JOEY, a fourpenny piece. The vulgar have an idea (whence derived I know not) that Sir James Graham invented fourpenny pieces. The lower orders dislike them because they are so frequently given as apologies for sixpences.

JOGG-TROT, a slow but regular trot, or pace.

JOGUL, to play up, at cards or other game.

JOLLY, a word of praise, or favourable notice, "chuck Harry a JOLLY, Bill!" *i.e.* go and praise up his goods, or buy of him, and speak well of the article, that the crowd standing around his stall may think it a good opportunity to lay out their money. "Chuck a JOLLY," literally translated is to throw a shout or a good word.

JOMER, a sweetheart, or favourite girl. *See* BLOWER.

JORDAN, a chamber utensil. *Sax.*

JUG, a prison, or jail.

JUMP, to seize, or rob; "to JUMP a man," to pounce upon him, and either rob or maltreat him; "to JUMP a house," to rob it. *See* GO.

JUNIPER, gin. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

KEEP IT UP, to prolong a debauch, or the occasion of a rejoicing,—a metaphor drawn from the game of shuttlecock. *Grose.*

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KEN, a house. *Ancient cant.*

KEN-CRACKERS, housebreakers.

KENNEDY, to strike or kill with a poker. A St. Giles' term, so given from a man of that name being killed by a poker. Frequently shortened to NEDDY.

KENT RAG, or CLOUT, a cotton handkerchief.

KETCH, or JACK KETCH, the popular name for a public hangman,—derived from a person of that name who officiated in the reign of Charles II.

KERTEVER-CARTZO, the venereal disease.

KICK, a moment "I'll be there in a KICK," *i.e.*, in a m inute.

KICK, a sixpence, "two and a KICK," two shillings and sixpence.

KICK, a pocket.

KICK THE BUCKET, to die.

KICKSIES, trowsers.

KICKSY, troublesome, disagreeable.

KICK-UP, a noise or disturbance.

KICKSHAWS, trifles; made, or French dishes,—not English, or substantial. Corruption of *quelque chose, French.*

KID, an infant, or child.

KID, to joke, to quiz, to hoax anybody.

KIDDEN, a low lodging-house for boys.

KIDDING ON, enticing, or inciting any person on.

KIDDILY, fashionably, or showily; "KIDDILY togg'd," showily dressed.

KIDMENT, a pocket handkerchief fastened to the pocket, and partially hung out to entrap thieves.

KIDNAPPER, one who steals children or adults. From KID, a child, and NAB (corrupted to NAP), to steal, or seize.

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KIDDLELIWINK, a small shop where they retail the commodities of a village store.

KIDNEY, "of that KIDNEY," of such a stamp; "strange KIDNEY," odd humour; "two of a KIDNEY," two persons of a sort. *Old.*

KIDSMAN, one who trains boys to thieve and pick pockets successfully.

KID-RIG, cheating children in the streets sent on errands, or entrusted with packages. *Nearly obsolete.*

KIDDY, a man or boy. Formerly a low thief.

KILKENNY CAT, a popular simile for a voracious or desperate animal or person.

KIMBO, or A KIMBO, holding the arms in a bent position from the body, and resting the hands upon the hips, in a bullying attitude. Said to be from A SCHEMBO, *Ital.*; but more probably from KIMBAW, the old cant for beating, or bullying. See *Grose.*

KINCHIN, a child. *Old cant.*

KINCHIN-COVE, a man who robs children; a little man. *Ancient cant.*

KINGSMAN, the favourite coloured neckerchief of the costermongers. The women wear them thrown over their shoulders. With both sexes they are more valued than any other article of clothing. A coster's *caste*, or position is at stake, he imagines, if his KINGSMAN is not of the most approved pattern. When he fights his KINGSMAN is tied either around his waist as a belt, or as a garter around his leg.

KIP, extra sized calf skin. Very common term in *America.*

KITE, *see* FLY THE KITE.

KNACKER, an old horse; a horse slaughterer. *Glouc.*

KNAP, to receive, to take, to steal.

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KNAPPING-JIGGER, a turnpike-gate; "to dub at the KNAPPING JIGGER," to pay money at the turnpike.

KNARK, a hard hearted and savage person.

KNIFE IT, cease, stop, dont proceed.

KNIGHT, a common and ironical prefix to a man's calling; thus, "KNIGHT of the whip," a coachman; "KNIGHT of the thimble," a tailor.

KNOCK OFF, to give over, or abandon. A saying used by workmen about dinner, or other meal times for upwards of two centuries.

KNOCK ABOUT THE BUB, to hand or pass about the drink.

KNOWING, a slang term for sharpness; "KNOWING codger," or "a KNOWING blade," one who can take you in, or cheat you in any transaction you may have with him. It implies also deep cunning and foresight, and invariably signifies dishonesty.

KNOWLEDGE-BOX, the head. *Pug.*

KNUCKLE, to pick pockets after the most approved method.

KNUCKLE TO, to yield, or submit.

KNUCKLER, a pickpocket.

KNULLER, old term for a chimney-sweep, who solicited jobs by ringing a bell. From the *Saxon*, CNYLLAN, to knell, or sound a bell. See QUERIER.

KYPSEY, a basket.

LACING, a beating. From the phrase "I'll LACE your jacket." *L'Estrange.*

LADDER, "cant see a hole in a LADDER," said of any one who is intoxicated.

LADDLE, a lady. Term with chimney-sweeps on the 1st of May.

LAG, a returned transport, or ticket-of-leave convict.

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LAG, to void urine. *Ancient cant.*

LAGGED, transported for a crime.

LAGGER, a sailor.

LAME DUCK, a stock-jobber who speculates beyond his capital and cannot pay his losses. Upon retiring from the Exchange he is said to "waddle out of the Alley."

LAMMING, a beating.

LARK, fun, a joke, "let's have a jolly good LARK," let us have a piece of fun. *Mayhew* calls it "a convenient word covering much mischief." *A. S.*, LAC, sport.

LARRUP, to beat or thrash.

LARRUPING, a good beating or "hiding."

LAVENDER, "to be laid up in LAVENDER," in pawn; or, when a person is out of the way for an especial purpose. *Old.*

LAY, to watch, "on the LAY," on the look out. *Shakspere.*

LEARY, to look, or be watchful; shy. *Old cant.*

LEARY, flash, or knowing.

LEARY BLOAK, a person who dresses showily.

LEATHER, to beat or thrash.

LEEF, "I'd as LEEF do it as not," *i.e.* I have no objection to do it. *Cor.* of LIEF or LEAVE.

LEG IT, to run; LEG BAIL, to run off. "Making a LEG," a countryman's bow,—projecting the leg from behind as a balance to the head bent forward. *Shaks.*

LEGGED, in irons.

LEGS, or BLACKLEGS, disreputable sporting characters, and race-course habitués.

LEGS OF MUTTON, inflated street term for sheeps' trotters, or feet.

LENGTH, forty-two lines of a dramatic composition. *Theat.*

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LENGTH, six month's imprisonment.

LET DRIVE, to strike, or attack with vigour.

LET IN, to cheat, or victimize.

LET ON, to make believe, to disclose. *Ramsay* employs the phrase in the *Gentle Shepherd.*

LETTY, a bed.

LEVANTER, a card sharper, or defaulting gambler.

LEVANT, to lose a bet and decamp without settling.

LICK, a blow; LICKING, a beating. "To put in big LICKS," a curious and common phrase meaning that great exertions are being made. *Dryden. North.*

LICK, to excel, or overcome, "if you aint sharp he'll LICK you," *i.e.* be finished first. Signifies also to whip, chastise, or conquer. *Ancient cant,* LYCKE.

LIGHT, "to be able to get a LIGHT at a house" is to get credit.

LIGHT-FEEDERS, silver spoons.

LIGHTS, the eyes.

LIMB OF THE LAW, a lawyer.

LINGO, talk, or language. Slang is termed LINGO amongst the lower orders.

LIP, bounce, impudence.

LIQUOR, or LIQUOR UP, to drink drams. *Americanism.* IN LIQUOR, tipsy, or drunk.

LITTLE SNAKES-MAN, a little thief who is generally passed through a small aperture to open any door to let in the rest of the gang.

LOAFFER, a lazy vagabond. Generally considered an *Americanism.* LOPER, or LOAFFER, however, was in general use as a cant term in the early part of the last century. LAND-LOPER was a vagabond who begged in the attire of a sailor, and the sea phrase, LAND-LUBBER, was doubtless synonymous.

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LOOF FAKER, a chimney sweep.

LOAVER, money.

LOB, a till, or money drawer.

LOBB, the head. *Pug.*

LOBLOLLY, gruel. *Old;* used by *Markham* as a sea term for grit gruel, or hasty pudding.

LOBS, words. *Gipsey.*

LOBSTER, a soldier.

LOCUSS, to drug a person and then rob them. The LOCUSS generally consists of snuff and beer.

LOLLY, the head. *See* LOBB. *Pug.*

LONG-TAILED-ONES, bank notes, or FLIMSIES, for a large amount.

LOP-SIDED, uneven, one side larger than the other. *Old.*

LOPE, this old form of leap is often heard in the streets.

LORD OF THE MANOR, a sixpence.

LOUR, or LOWR, money; "gammy LOWR," bad money. *Ancient cant,* and *Gipsey*

LOUSE TRAP, a small tooth comb. *Old cant.*

LUBBER, a clown or fool. *Ancient cant,* LUBBARES.

LUCK, "down on one's LUCK," wanting money, or in difficulty.

LUCKY, "to cut one's LUCKY," to go away quickly. *See* STRIKE.

LUG, the ear. *Scotch.*

LUG, to pull, or slake thirst. *Old.*

LUG CHOVEY, a pawnbroker's shop.

LULLY PRIGGERS, rogues who steal wet clothes hung on lines to dry.

LUMBER, to pawn or pledge. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

LUMPER, a contractor.

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LUMP WORK, contracting.

LUMP THE LIGHTER, to be transported.

LUMPERS, low thieves who haunt wharves and docks, and rob vessels; persons who sell old goods for new.

LUMPY, intoxicated.

LUNAN, a girl. *Gipsey.*

LURK, a sham, swindle, or representation of feigned distress.

LURKER, an imposter who travels the country with false certificates of fires, shipwrecks, &c.

LUSH, intoxicating drinks of all kinds, but generally used for beer. Originally *Cumb.*

LUSH, to drink, or get drunk. LUSHY, intoxicated.

LUSH-CRIB, a public house.

LUSHINGTON, a drunkard, or one who continually soaks himself with drams, and pints of beer. Some years since there was a "Lushington Club" in Bow street, Covent Garden.

MAB, a cab, or hackney coach.

MACE, a dressy swindler who victimizes tradesmen.

MACE, to spunge, swindle, or beg in a polite way; "give it him (a shopkeeper) on the MACE," *i.e.* obtain goods on credit and never pay for them, also termed "striking the MACE."

MADZA, half.

MADZA CAROON, two and sixpence.

MADZA SALTEE, a halfpenny.

MADZA POONA, half a sovereign.

MADZA ROUND THE BULL, half a pound of steak.

MAG, a halfpenny. MEGGS were formerly guineas. *B. M. Carew.*

MAG, to talk. A corruption from NAG. *Old.*

MAGSMAN, a street swindler, who watches for countrymen and "gullable" persons.

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MAIN-TOBY, the highway, or the main road.

MAKE, to steal.

MAKE UP, personal appearance. *Theat.*

MANG, to talk. *Scotch.*

MARE'S NEST, a popular simile for folly, or an impossibility. An old preacher in Cornwall, up to very lately employed a different version, viz. "a cow calving up in a tree."

MARINATED, transported;—from the salt pickling fish undergo in Cornwall. *Old cant.*

MARRIAGE LINES, a marriage certificate. *Yorks.*

MARYGOLD, one million sterling. See *Plum.*

MATES, the term a coster or low person applies to a friend, partner, or companion. "Me and my mate" did so and so, is a common phrase with a low Londoner.

MAULEY, a signature. From MAULEY, a fist; "put your FIST to it, "is sometimes said by a low tradesman when desiring a fellow trader to put his signature to a bill or note.

MAULEY, a fist. *Pug.*

MAUND, to beg. *Gipsey and Hindoo.*

MAUNDERING ON THE FLY, begging of people in the streets. *Old cant.*

MAW, the mouth; "hold your maw," cease talking.

MAX, gin.

MAX-UPON-TICK, gin obtained on credit, or "TICK."

MENAGERY, the orchestra of a theatre. *Theat.*

MIKE, to loiter; or, as a costermonger defined it, to "lazy about."

MILKY ONES, white linen rags.

MILL, a fight, or SET TO. *Ancient cant,* MYLL, to rob.

MILL, to fight or beat.

MILL, the treadmill, prison.

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MILL-TOG, a shirt,—most likely the prison garment.

MIND, to remember.

MISH, a shirt, or chemise. From COMMISSION the *Ancient cant* for a shirt, afterwards shortened to K'MISH, or SMISH, and then to MISH. *French?*

MITTENS, fists. *Pug.*

MIZZLE, to run away, or decamp.

MOB. *See* SCHOOL.

MOBILITY, the populace; or, according to *Burke*, the "great unwashed." *Johnson* calls it a cant term.

MOBS, companions; MOBSMEN, dressy swindlers.

MOKE, a donkey. *Gipsey.*

MOLL, a girl; nickname for Mary. *Old cant.*

MOLLED, followed, or accompanied by a woman.

MOLLISHER, a low girl or woman; generally a female cohabiting with a man, and jointly getting their living by thieving.

MOLLSACK, a reticule, or market basket.

MOLL TOOLER, a female pickpocket.

MOLLYCODDLE, an effeminate man, one who caudles amongst the women, or does their work.

MOLLYGRUBS, stomach ache, or sorrow—which to the costermonger is much the same; as he believes, like the ancients, that the viscera is the seat of all feeling.

MONEKEER, a person's name or signature.

MONKEY, spirit, or temper; "to get one's MONKEY up," to rouse their passion.

MONKEY, a padlock.

MONKERY, the country, or rural districts. *Old* word for a quiet, or monastic life.—*Hall.*

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MOOCH, to spunge (or sponge?) to obtrude yourself upon your friends just when they are about to sit down to dinner, or other lucky time,—of course purely accidental. To slink away, and allow your friend to pay for the entertainment. *In Wiltshire,* ON THE MOUTCH is to shuffle.

MOOCHING, or ON THE MOOCH, on the look out for any articles or circumstances which may be turned to a profitable account; watching in the streets for odd jobs, scraps, horses to hold, &c.

MOOE, the mouth; the female generative organ. *Gipsey and Hindoo. Shakespere* has MOE, to make mouths.

MOON, a month—generally used to express the length of time a person has been sentenced by the magistrate, thus "ONE MOON" is one month. *See* DRAG. It is a curious fact that the Indians of America and the roaming vagabonds of England should both calculate time by the MOON.

MOONEY, intoxicated. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

MOONSHINE, palaver, deception, humbug.

MOPS AND BROOMS, intoxicated. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

MOPUSSES, money; "MOPUSSES ran taper," money ran short.

MOP UP, to drink, or empty a glass. *Old.*

MOTT, a girl of indifferent character. Formerly *Mort. Dutch,* MOTT-KAST, a harlotry.

MOUNTAIN PECKER, a sheep's head.

MOUNTER, a false swearer. Derived from the borrowed clothes men used to MOUNT, or dress in when going to swear for a consideration.

MOUTHPIECE, a lawyer, or council.

MOVE, a "dodge," or cunning trick; "up to a move or two," aquainted with tricks.

MUCK, to beat, or excel; "it's no use, luck's set in him—he'd MUCK a thousand."—*Mayhew* Vol I, p. 18. MUCKED OUT, lost everything,—generally used in gambling. From the *Malay,* AMOK, slaughter?

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MUCK-SNIPE, a man "done up," ruined, or completely broken down.

MUCKETTY, mixed up, untidy. *Suf.*

MUDDLED, intoxicated.

MUD-LARKS, men and women who, with their clothes tucked above knee, grovel through the mud on the banks of the Thames, when the tide is low, for silver spoons, old bottles, pieces of iron, coal, or any articles of the least value, deposited by the retiring tide, either from passing ships or the sewers. Occasionally, those men who cleanse the sewers, with great boots and sou' wester hats.

MUFF, a silly, or weakminded person; opposite of DON. *Old.*

MUG, to fight, or chastise.

MUG, "to MUG oneself," to get tipsy.

MUG, the mouth, or face. *Old.*

MUGGING, a thrashing,—synonymous with SLOGGING, both terms of the "ring," and frequently used by fighting men.

MUGGY, drunk.

MUG-UP, to paint one's face. *Theat.*

MULL, "to make a MULL of it," to spoil anything, or make a fool of oneself. *Gipsey.*

MULTEE KERTEVER, very bad.

MUMMER, a performer at a penny theatre. *Ancient.*

MUMPER, a beggar. *Gipsey.*

MUMPING, begging.

MUNDUNGUS, trashy tobacco. *Span.*, MONDONGO.

MUNGARLY, bread, food. MUNG is an *old word* for mixed food.

MUNGARLY CASSEY, a baker's shop.

MUNGING, begging, muttering. *North.*

MUNS, the mouth. *Ger.*, MUND. *Old cant.*

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MURKARKER, a monkey.

MURERK, the mistress of the house. *See* BURERK.

MURPHY, a potato.

MUSH, an umbrella. Contraction of *mushroom.*

MUSH FAKER, an itinerant mender of umbrellas.

MUTTON, a lewd woman. *Shakspere.*

MUTTON WALK, the saloon at Drury Lane Theatre.

MUZZLE, to fight or thrash.

MUZZY, intoxicated. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

MY AUNT, a water-closet, or house of office.

MY UNCLE, the pawnbroker; generally used when any person questions the whereabouts of a domestic article, "Oh! only at MY UNCLE'S" is the reply. UP THE SPOUT has the same meaning.

MY TULIP, a term of endearment used by the lower orders to persons and animals; "kim up MY TULIP," as the coster said to his donkey when thrashing him with an ash stick.

NAB, to catch, to seize.

NAIL, to steal, or capture; "paid on the NAIL," *i.e.* ready money; NAILED, taken up, or caught.

We say "as dead as a DOOR-NAIL;"—why? Does the passage in *Shakspere's Hen. IV.* explain it?—

> "*Falstaff.* What! is the old king dead?
> *Pistol.* As nail in door."

NAMUS, or NAMOUS, some one, *i.e.* "be off, somebody is coming." *Back slang,* but general.

NANNY-SHOP, a disreputable house.

NANTEE, not any, or I have none." *See* DINARLY.

NANTEE PALAVER, hold your tongue.

NAP, or NAB, take or steal; "you'll NAP it," you will catch a beating! *North;* also *old cant.*

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NAP, or NAPPER, a hat. From NAB, a hat, cap, or head. *Old cant.*

NAPPING ONE'S BIB, to cry, shed tears, or carry one's point.

NAP THE REGULARS, to divide the booty.

NAP THE TEAZE, to be privately whipped in prison.

NARK, to watch, or look after; "NARK the titter," watch the girl.

NARP, a shirt. *Scotch.*

NARY ONE, neither. *Vulgar pronunciation. Devon.*

NATION, very or exceedingly. Corruption of DAMNATION.

NATTY, pretty, neat, tidy. *Old.*

NEDDY, a life preserver. Contraction of KENNEDY,—the name of the first man who had his head broken by the weapon.—Vide *Mornings at Bow Street.*

NEDDY, a donkey.

NEDS, guineas. HALF-NEDS, half-guineas.

NEEDFUL, money, cash.

NEEDY, a nightly lodger, or tramp.

NEEDY MIZZLER, a shabby person.

NESTS, varieties. *Old.*

NEVER-TRUST-ME, an ordinary phrase with low Londoners, and common in Shakspere's time, vide *Twelfth Night.* It is generally used instead of an oath, calling vengeance on the asseverator if such and such does not come to pass.

NEWGATE KNOCKER, the term given to the lock of hair which costermongers and thieves usually twist back towards the ear. The shape is supposed to resemble the knocker on the prisoners' door at Newgate—a resemblance that would appear to carry a rather unpleasant suggestion to the wearer.

NIBBLER, a petty thief.

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NIBBLE, to take, or steal.

NIBS, the master, or chief person; a man with no means but high pretensions,—a shabby-genteel.

NICK, or OLD NICK, the evil spirit. *Scandinavian.*

NICK-NACK, a trifle. Originally *cant.*

NIGGLING, trifling, or idling; taking short steps in walking. *North.*

NIL, half; half profits, &c.

NILLY-WILLY, which, or what will you do.

NIMMING, stealing. Immediately from the *Ger.*, NEHMEN. Motherwell, the Scotch poet, thought the old word NIM (to snatch, or pick up) was derived from *nam, nam,* the tiny words or cries of an infant when eating anything which pleased its little palate. A negro proverb has the word;—

> "Buckra man *nam* crab,
> Crab *nam* buckra man."

Or, in the buckra man's language,—

> White man eat [or steal] the crab,
> And the crab eats the white man.

NINCUMPOOP, a fool.

NINES, "dressed up to the NINES," in a showy or recherché manner.

NIPPER, a small boy. *Old cant* for a *boy* cut-purse.

NIX, nothing; "NIX my doll," synonymous with NIX.

NIZZIE, a fool, a coxcomb. *Old cant,* vide *Triumph of Wit.*

NOB, a swell, a person of high position,—evidently a shortning of noble, or nobleman. NOB, the head,—pugilistic term. "Bob a NOB," a shilling a head. *Ancient cant,* NAB.

NOBBA, nine.

NOBBA SALTEE, ninepence.

NOBBING, collecting money, "what NOBBINGS?" *i.e.* how much have you got?

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NOBBLERS, confederates of the thimble-rigs, who play earnestly, as if strangers to the "RIG," and thus draw unsuspecting persons into a game.

NOBBY, fine or showy; NOBBILY, showily.

NOMMUS, be off. *See* NAMUS.

NONSENE, *Grose* defines this as "melting butter in a wig."

NO ODDS, no matter, of no consequence. *Latimer's sermon before Edward VI.*

NOSE, a thief who turns informer, or Queen's evidence; a spy or watch; "on the NOSE," on the look out.

NOSE, "to pay through the NOSE," to pay an extravagant price.

NOSE EM, or FOGUS, tobacco.

NOSER, a bloody or contused nose. *Pug.*

NOUSE, to understand or comprehend. *Old*, apparently from the *Greek*, NOUS.

NUMERALS, *see* SALTEE.

NURSING, a curious but ancient term lately applied to competition in omnibuses. Two omnibuses are placed on the road to NURSE, or oppose each opposition "buss," one before, the other behind. Of course the central or NURSED buss has very little chance, unless it happens to be a favourite with the public. NURSE, to cheat, or swindle; trustees are said to NURSE property, *i.e.* gradually eat it up themselves.

NUTS, to be NUTS upon anything or person is to be pleased with or fond of it; a self-satisfied man is said to be NUTS upon himself.

NUTTY, amorous.

NYMPH OF THE PAVE, a girl of the town.

OBFUSCATED, intoxicated.

OBSQUATULATE, to run away, or decamp.

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O'CLOCK, or A'CLOCK, "like ONE O'CLOCK," a favourite comparison with the lower orders implying briskness; "to know what O'CLOCK it is," to be wide awake, sharp, and experienced.

OD DRAT IT, OD'S BLOOD, and all other exclamations commencing with OD, are nothing but softened or suppressed oaths. OD is a corruption of GOD. *Shaks.*

OFF AND ON, vacillating; "an OFF AND ON kind of a chap," one who is always undecided.

OFFISH, distant, not familiar.

OGLES, eyes. *Old cant.*

OGLE, to look, or reconnoiter.

OLD TOM, gin.

OLIVER, the moon, "OLIVER dont widdle," *i.e.* the moon does not rise. *Nearly obsolete.*

OMEE, a master or landlord; "the OMEE of the cassey's a nark on the pitch," the master of the house will not let us perform.

ON THE FLY, getting one's living by thieving or other illegitimate means; the term is applied to men the same as ON THE LOOSE is to women.

ON THE LOOSE, obtaining a living by prostitution, in reality, on the streets. The term is applied to females only, excepting in the case of SPREES, when men carousing are sometimes said to be ON THE LOOSE.

ON THE NOSE, on the watch or look out. *See* NOSE.

ON THE SHELF, to be transported. With old maids it has another and very different meaning.

ON THE TILES, out all night "on the spree," or carousing,—in allusion to the London cats.

OTTER, eightpence. *Ital.*

OTTOMY, a thin man, or skeleton. Vulgar pronunciation of *Anatomy.*

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OUT AND OUT, prime, excellent, of the first quality.
An ancient MS. has this couplet, which shows the antiquity of the phrase—

> **The Kyng was good alle aboute,**
> **And she was wycked *oute and oute.***

OUT AND OUTER, a person who knows, or is UP to everything.

OUT OF COLLAR, out of place,—in allusion to servants. *Theat.* and *general.*

P'S AND Q'S, particular points; "mind your P'S AND Q'S," be very careful. From *child's alphabet.*

PAD, "to stand PAD," to beg with a small piece of paper inscribed "I'm starving."

PAD, the highway; a tramp. *Linc.*

PAD THE HOOF, to walk, not ride; "PADDING THE HOOF on the high toby," tramping or walking on the high road.

PADDING KENS, or CRIBS, tramps' lodging houses.

PADDLE, to go or run away. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

PADDY, PAT, or PADDY WHACK, an Irishman.

PAL, a partner, acquaintance, friend, an accomplice. *Gipsey,* a brother.

PALAVER, to ask, or talk,—not deceitfully, as the term usually signifies; "PALAVER to the nibs for a shant of bivvy." ask the master for a quart of beer. In this sense used by *Tramps.*

PALL, to detect.

PALMING, robbing shops by pairs,—one bargaining with apparent intent to purchase, whilst the other thief watches his opportunity to steal. An amusing example of PALMING came off some time since. A man entered a ready made boot and shoe shop and desired to be shown a pair of boots, —his companion staying outside and amusing himself by looking in at the window. The one who required to be fresh shod was apparently of a humble and defferential turn,

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for he placed his hat on the floor directly he stepped in the shop. Boot after boot was tried on until at last a fit was obtained,—when lo, forth came a man, snatched up the customer's hat left near the door, and down the street he ran as fast as his legs could carry him. Away went the customer after his hat, and Crispin, standing at the door, clapped his hands and shouted "go it, you'll catch him,"—little thinking that it was a concerted trick, and that neither his boots or the customer would ever return.

PAM, the knave of clubs; or, in political language, Lord Palmerston.

PANNAM, food, bread. *Lat.*, PANIS. *Ancient cant*, YANNAM.

PANNAM-BOUND, stopping the prison food or rations to a prisoner.

PANNIKIN, a small pan.

PANNY, a house—public or otherwise; "flash PANNY," a public-house used by thieves.

PANTILE, a hat. *Halliwell* gives PANTILE SHOP, a meeting-house.

PAPER MAKERS, rag gatherers and gutter rakers—similar to the Chiffonniers in Paris. Also those men who tramp through the country, and collect rags on the pretence that they are agents to a paper mill.

PAPER WORKERS, the wandering vendors of street literature, street folk who sell ballads, dying speeches and confessions, sometimes termed RUNNING STATIONERS.

PARNEY, rain; "dowry of PARNEY," a quantity of rain.

PASH, to strike; now corrupted to BASH,—which see. *Shakspere.*

PATENT COAT, a coat with the pockets inside the skirts,—termed patent from the difficulty of picking it.

PATTER, a speech or discourse; a pompous street oration; a judge's summing up; a trial. *Ancient* word for muttering,

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and probably from the *Latin* prayer, *pater noster*, &c. *Dr. Pusey* takes this view of the derivation in his *Letter to the Bishop of London*, p. 78, 1851. *Scott* uses the word twice in *Ivanhoe* and the *Bride of Lammermoor*.

PATTER, to talk.

PATTER FLASH, to speak the language of thieves.

PATTERERS, men who cry last dying speeches, &c., in the street, and those who help off their wares by *long harangues* in the public thoroughfares. These men, to use their own term, "are the haristocracy of the street sellers," and despise the costermongers for their ignorance, boasting that they live by their intellect. The public, they say, do not expect to receive from them an equivalent for their money—they pay to hear them talk.—*Mayhew*. PATTERERS were formerly termed "mountebanks."

PAWS, hands.

PAY, to beat any person, or "serve them out;" "to PAY through the nose," to give a ridiculous price,—whence the origin? *Shakspere* uses PAY in the sense of to beat, or thrash.

PEACH, to inform against or betray. *Webster* states that *impeach* is now the modification mostly used, and that PEACH is confined principally to the conversation of thieves and the lower orders.

PEAKING, remnants of cloth.

PECK, food; "PECK and booze," meat and drink. *Linc. Ancient cant*, PEK, meat.

PECKISH, hungry. *Old cant*, PECKIDGE, meat.

PEEL, to strip, or disrobe.

PEELER, a policeman.

PEEPERS, eyes; "painted PEEPERS," eyes bruised or blackened from a blow.

PEERY, suspicious, or inquisitive.

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PEG. "to PEG away," to strike, run, or drive away; "PEG a hack," to drive a cab; "take down a PEG or two," to check an arrogant or conceited person.

PEG, a shilling. *Scotch.*

PENNY GAFFS, shops turned into temporary theatres (admission one penny), where dancing and singing take place every night. Rude pictures of the performers are arranged outside to give the front a gaudy and attractive look, and at night-time coloured lamps and transparencies are displayed to draw an audience.

PENISULAR, or MOLL TOOLER, a female pickpocket.

PENSIONER, a man of the lowest morals who lives off the miserable earnings of prostitutes.

PEPPER, to thrash, or strike. *Pugilistic,* but used by *Shakspere. East.*

PETER, a bundle, or valise.

PETER, to run short, or give out.

PETERER, or PETERMAN, one who follows hackney and stage coaches, and cuts off the portmanteaus and trunks from behind. *Nearly obsolete.*

PETTICOAT, a woman.

PEWTER, money.

PHYSOG, or PHIZ, the face. Corruption of physiognomy.

PICK, "to PICK oneself up," to recover after a beating or illness.

PICKERS, the hands. *Shakspere.*

PICKLE, a miserable or comical position; "he is in a sad PICKLE," said of any one who has fallen into the gutter, or got besmeared. "A PICKLE herring," a comical fellow, a merry Andrew. *Old.*

PIECE, a contemptuous term for a woman; a strumpet. *Shaks.*

PIG, or SOW'S BABY, a sixpence.

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PIGEON, a gullable, or soft person.

PIGEON, or BLUEY CRACKING, breaking into empty houses and stealing lead.

PIG-HEADED, obstinate.

PIG'S WHISPER, a low or inaudible whisper.

PIKE, to run away.

PIN, "to put in the PIN," to refrain from drinking. *Old*, A MERRY PIN, a roisterer.

PINCH, to steal, or cheat.

PINDARIC HEIGHTS, studying the odes of Pindar. *Oxford.*

PINNERS-UP, sellers of old songs pinned against a wall, or framed canvas.

PINS, legs.

PIPE, to shed tears, or bewail.

PITCH, a fixed locality where a patterer can hold forth to a gaping multitude for at least some few minutes continuously; "to do a PITCH in the drag," to perform in the street.

PITCH, to fight, "PITCH into him, Bill," *i.e.* give him a thrashing.

PITCH THE FORK, to tell a pitiful tale.

PITCH THE NOB,—"PRICK THE GARTER,"—which see.

PLANT, a dodge, a preconcerted swindle; a position in the street to sell from. PLANT, a swindle, may be thus described: a coster will join a party of gambling costers that he never saw before, and commence tossing. When sufficient time has elapsed to remove all suspicions of companionship, his mate will come up and commence betting on each of his PAL'S throws with those standing around. By a curious quickness of hand, a coster can make the toss tell favourably for his wagering friend, who meets him after the play is over in the evening, and shares the spoil.

PLANT, to conceal, or place. *Old cant.*

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PLOUGHED, drunk. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

PLUCK, the heart, liver, and lungs of an animal,—among low persons courage, valour, and a stout heart. *See* MOLLYGRUBS for remark as to origin.

PLUCKED, turned back at an examination. *University.*

PLUCKY, courageous, to bear pain without flinching.

PLUNDER, a common word in the horse trade to express profit.

PLUM, £100,000,—usually applied to the dowry of a rich heiress, or a legacy.

PLUMMY, round, sleek, jolly, or fat; excellent, very good, first rate.

PLUMPER, a single vote at an election, not a "split ticket."

PODGY, drunk; dumpy, short and fat.

POKE, a bag, or sack; "to buy a pig in a POKE," to purchase anything without seeing it. *Sax.*

POKE, "come, none of your POKING fun at me," *i.e.* you must not laugh at me.

POLISH, to finish off anything quickly—a dinner for instance.

POLL, or POLLING, one thief robbing another of part of their booty. *Hall's Union,* 1548.

POLL'D UP, living with a woman without being married to her.

PONCHO, a loose overcoat.

POONA, a sovereign. Corruption of *pound.*

POP, to pawn or pledge; "to POP up the spout," to pledge at the pawnbroker's,—an allusion to the spout up which the brokers send the ticketed articles until such times as they shall be redeemed. The spout runs from the ground floor to the wareroom at the top of the house.

POP SHOP, a pawnbroker's shop.

POSH, a half-penny, or trifling coin.

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POST HORN, the nose.

POT, "go to POT," go and hang yourself, or be quiet. *L'Estrange.*

POT, "to go to POT," to be ruined or broken up,—generally applied to tradesmen who have "failed" in business.

POTATO TRAP, the mouth. A humorous *Hibernicism.*

POT-LUCK, just as it comes,—a hearty term used to signify whatever the pot contains you are welcome to.

POT-WALLOPPERS, persons entitled to vote from having boiled a pot in the borough.

PRAD, a horse.

PRAD NAPPING, horse stealing.

PRANCER, a horse. *Ancient cant.*

PRICK THE GARTER, or PITCH THE NOB, a gambling and cheating game common at fairs, and generally practised by thimble riggers. It consists of a "garter" or a piece of list doubled, and then folded up tight. The bet is made upon your asserting that you can with a pin "prick" the point at which the garter is doubled. The garter is then unfolded, and nine times out of ten you will find that you have been deceived, and that you pricked one of the false folds. The owner of the garter, I should state, holds the ends tightly with one hand. This was, doubtless, originally a Gipsey game, and we are informed by *Brand* that it was much practised by the Gipsies in the time of *Shakspere.* In those days it was termed PRICKING AT THE BELT, or FAST AND LOOSE.

PRIG, a thief. Used by *Addison* in the sense of a coxcomb. *Ancient cant,* probably from the *Saxon,* PRICC-AN, to filch, &c. *Shakspeve.*

PRIG, to steal, or rob.

PRIGGING, thieving.

PRIME PLANT, a good subject for plunder.

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PRO, a professional. *Theat.*

PROG, meat, food, &c. *Johnson,* "a low word."

PROP, a gold scarf pin.

PROP-NAILER, a man who steals, or rather snatches pins from gentlemen's scarfs.

PROPS, crutches.

PROSS, breaking in or instructing a stage-infatuated youth. *Theat.*

PUB, or PUBLIC, a public house.

PUCKER, poor temper, difficulty, dishabille.

PUCKER, or PUCKER UP, to get in a poor temper.

PUCKERING, talking privately.

PUDDING SNAMMER, one who robs a cook shop.

PULL, "to be PULLED up," to be taken before the magistrate; "I've the PULL over you," *i.e.* you are in my power,—a slanting allusion to the magistrate, &c.

PULL, to drink; "come take a PULL at it," *i.e.* drink up.

PULLEY, a confederate thief,—generally a woman.

PUMMEL, to thrash,—from POMMEL.

PUMMELLING, a severe beating or thrashing.

PUMP SHIP, to evacuate. *Sea.*

PURE FINDERS, street collectors of dogs' dung.

PURL, beer, porter.

PUSH, a crowd. *Old cant.*

PUT UP, to have done with; PUT IT UP is a vulgar answer often heard in the streets.

QUARTEREEN, a farthing.

QUEAN (not QUEEN), a strumpet.

QUEER, an old word once in continual use as a prefix, signifying

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base, roguish, and worthless,—the opposite of RUM, which signified good and genuine. QUEER, in all probability, is derived from the cant language; it has been mooted that it came into use from a quære (?) being set before a man's name.

QUEER BAIL, worthless persons who for a consideration would stand bail for any one in court. Insolvent Jews generally performed this office, which gave rise to the term JEW-BAIL. *See* MOUNTERS,—both nearly obsolete.

QUEER BIT-MAKERS, coiners.

QUEER-CUFFEN, a justice of the peace or magistrate,—a very ancient term mentioned in the earliest slang dictionary.

QUEER SCREENS, forged bank notes.

QUEER SOFT, bad money.

QUEER STREET, "in QUEER STREET," in difficulties or in want.

QUERIER, a chimney-sweep who calls from house to house,—formerly termed KNULLER, which see.

QUID, or THICK UN, a sovereign; "half a QUID," half a sovereign. *Quid est hoc? hoc est quid.*

QUIDS, money.

QUID, a small piece of tobacco,—one mouthful.

QUILL-DRIVER, a clerk,—satirical phrase similar to STEEL-BAR-DRIVER.

QUILT, to thrash, or beat.

QUISBY, bankrupt, poverty stricken. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

QUIZ, a prying person, an odd fellow. *Oxford cant;* lately admitted into dictionaries. Not noticed by *Johnson.*

QUIZ, to pry, or joke.

QUIZZICAL, jocose, humorous.

QUOD, a prison or lock up; QUODDED, put in prison.

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RACKET, a dodge, manœuvre, exhibition; a disturbance.

RACKETY, wild or noisy.

RACKS, the bones of a dead horse. Term used by horse slaughterers.

RACLAN, a married woman. *Gipsey.*

RAG SPLAWGER, a rich man.

RAGS, bank notes.

RAIN NAPPER, umbrella.

RAISE THE WIND, to obtain money,—generally by pawning or selling off property.

RAMP, to thieve or rob with violence.

RAMPSMAN, a highway robber who uses violence when necessary.

RAMSHACKLE, to shatter as with a battering ram; RAMSHACKLED, knocked about. Corrupted from ram-shatter, or possibly from ransack.

RANDY, rampant, violent, warm, amorous. *North,* RANDY-BEGGAR, a Gipsey tinker.

RAN-TAN, "on the RAN-TAN," drunk. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

RAP, a halfpenny; frequently used generically for money, thus: "I hav'nt a RAP," *i.e.* I have no money whatever; "I dont care a RAP," &c. *Irish.*

RAPSCALLION, a low tattered wretch.

RAT, a sneak, or an informer.

RAT, term amongst printers to denote one who works under price. *Old cant* for clergyman.

RATHER! a ridiculous street exclamation synonymous with yes, "do you like fried chickens?" "RATHER!" "are you going out of town," "RATHER!"

RATTLER, a cab, coach, cart. *Old cant.*

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RATTLECAP, an unsteady volatile person.

RATTLERS, a railway; "on the RATTLERS to the stretchers," *i.e.* going to the races by railway.

RAW, uninitiated; a novice. *Old.*

READER, a pocket book; "give it him for his READER," *i.e.* rob him of his pocket book. *Old cant.*

READY, or READY GILT, money. Used by *Arbuthnot*, "Lord Strut was not very *flush* in READY."

REAM, good or genuine.

REAM-BLOAK, a good man.

REDGE, gold.

RED HERRING, a soldier.

RED LANE, the throat.

RED LINER, an officer of the Mendicity Society.

RED RAG, the tongue.

REGULARS, a thief's share of the plunder. "They were quarrelling about the REGULARS."—*Times, Jan. 8th*, 1856.

RENCH, vulgar pronunciation of RINSE. "*Wrench* your mouth out," said a fashionable dentist one day. *North.*

RE-RAW, "on the RE-RAW," tipsy or drunk. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

RHINO, money.

RIB, a wife. *North.*

RIBBONS, the reins. *Midx.*

RIG, a trick, "spree," or performance; "run a RIG," to play a trick. *Gipsey.*

RIGHTS, "to have one to RIGHTS," to be even with him, to serve him out.

RILED, very cross, irritated, vexed. *Norf.*

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RINGING CASTORS, changing hats.

RINGING THE CHANGES, changing bad money for good.

RIP, a rake; "an old RIP," an old libertine, or debauchee. *Wilts.*

RIPPER, a first-rate man or article. *Som.*

RIPPING, excellent, very good.

RAISE A BARNEY, to collect a mob.

ROARER, a broken-winded horse.

ROARING TRADE, a very successful business.

ROLL OF SNOW, a piece of Irish linen.

ROMANY, a Gipsey, or the Gipsey language; the speech of the Roma or Zincali. *Spanish Gipsey.*

ROOK, a clergyman.

ROOK, a cheat, or tricky gambler; the opposite of PIGEON. *Old.*

ROOKERY, a low neighbourhood inhabited by dirty Irish and thieves—as ST. GILES' ROOKERY. *Old.*

ROUGHS, coarse, or vulgar men.

ROUGH, bad; "ROUGH fish," bad fish.

ROULEAU, a packet of sovereigns. *Gaming.*

ROUND, to tell tales, to "SPLIT" (which see); "to ROUND on a man," to swear to him as being the person, &c. Synonymous with "BUFF," which see. *Shakspere* has ROUNDING, whispering.

ROUND, "ROUND dealing," honest trading; "ROUND sum," a large sum. Synonymous in a *slang* sense with SQUARE,—which see.

ROUNDS, shirt collars,—apparently a mere shortning of "All Rounds," or All Rounders," names of fashionable collars.

ROUNDS, (in the language of the street) the beats or usual walks of the costermonger to sell his stock. A term used by street folk generally.

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ROUNDABOUTS, large swings of four compartments, each the size and very much the shape of the body of a cart, capable of seating six or eight boys and girls, erected in a high frame and turned round by men at a windlass. Fairs and merry-makings generally abound with them. The frames take to pieces and are carried in vans by miserable horses from fair to fair, &c.

ROUND ROBIN, a petition, or paper of remonstrance with the signatures written in a circle,—to prevent the first signer, or ringleader, from being discovered.

ROW, a noisy disturbance, or trouble. Originally *Cambridge*, now universal.

ROWDY, money.

RUB, a quarrel, or impediment. *Shakspere and L'Estrange.*

RUBBER, two games out of three. *Old*, 1677.

RUM, like its opposite, QUEER, was formerly a much used prefix, signifying fine, good, gallant, or valuable. Now-a-days it means indifferent, bad, or questionable, and we often hear even persons in polite society use such a phrase as "what a RUM fellow he is to be sure," in speaking of a man of singular habits or appearance. The term, from its frequent use, long since claimed a place in our dictionaries; but, with the exception of *Johnson*, who says RUM, a cant word for a clergyman (?), no lexicographer has deigned to notice it.

> Thus RUMLY floor'd, the kind Acestes ran,
> And pitying rais'd from earth the game old man.
> VIRGIL'S ÆNIED, Book 5, *Translation by Tho. Moore.*

RUM is from the *Gipsey and Coptick*. RUMI, in the *Robbers' language* of Spain (partly *Gipsey*), signifies a harlot.

RUMBUMPTIOUS, haughty, pugilistic.

RUMBUSTIOUS, pompous, haughty,—same as preceding.

RUM MIZZLERS, persons who are clever in making their escape, or getting out of a difficulty.

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RUMY, a good woman or girl. *Gipsey.*

RUN (good or bad), the success of a performance. *Theat.*

RUN, to comprehend, &c.; "I don't RUN to it," *i.e.* I can't do it, or I dont understand, or I have not money enough. *North.*

RUN, "to get the RUN upon any person," to have the upper hand, or be able to laugh at them.

RUN DOWN, to abuse, or backbite any one.

RUNNING PATTERER, a street seller who runs or moves briskly along, calling aloud his wares.

RUNNING STATIONERS, hawkers of books, ballads, dying speeches, and newspapers. They formerly used to run with newspapers, blowing a horn, when they were also termed FLYING STATIONERS.

RUSH, "doing it on the RUSH," running away, or making off.

RUSTY, cross, ill tempered, morose. Corruption of CRUSTY.

RUSTY GUTS, a blunt, rough old fellow. Corruption of RESTICUS.

SACK, "to get the SACK," to be discharged by an employer.

SADDLE, an additional charge by the manager to a performer upon his benefit. *Theat.*

SAD DOG, a merry fellow, a joker, a gay or "fast" man.

SAL, a salary. *Theat.*

SALAMANDERS, street acrobats and jugglers who eat fire.

SA-LOOP, SALEP, or SALOP, a greasy looking beverage formerly sold on stalls at early morning, prepared from a powder made of the root of the *Orchis mascula*, or Red-handed Orchis. Within a few years coffee stands have superseded SALOOP stalls, but Charles Lamb in one of his papers has left some account of this drinkable, which he says was of all preparations the most grateful to the stomachs of young chimney-sweeps.

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SAINT MONDAY, a holiday most religiously observed by journeymen shoemakers, and other mechanics. An Irishman observed that this saint's anniversary happened every week. *North*, where it is termed COBBLERS' MONDAY.

SALT BOX, the condemned cell in Newgate.

SALTEE, a penny. Pence, &c., are thus reckoned:—

ONEY SALTEE, a penny.
DOOE SALTEE, twopence.
TRAY SALTEE, threepence.
QUARTERER SALTEE, fourpence.
CHINKER SALTEE, fivepence.
SAY SALTEE, sixpence.
SAY ONEY SALTEE, or SETTER SALTEE, sevenpence.
SAY DOOE SALTEE, or OTTER SALTEE, eightpence.
SAY TRAY SALTEE, or NOBBA SALTEE, ninepence.
SAY QUARTERER SALTEE, or DACHA SALTEE, tenpence.
SAY CHINKER SALTEE, or DACHA ONE SALTEE, elevenpence.
ONEY BEONG, one shilling.
A BEONG SAY SALTEE, one shilling and sixpence.
DOOE BEONG SAY SALTEE, or MADZA CAROON, half a crown, or two shillings and sixpence.

*** These numerals, as will be seen, are of mongrel origin—the French, perhaps, predominating.

Amongst costermongers and other street folk it is quite immaterial what foreign tongue contributes to their secret language. Providing the terms are unknown to the police and the public generally, they care not a rushlight whether the polite French, the gay Spaniards, or the cloudy Germans helped to swell their vocabulary. The numbers of low foreigners, however, dragging out a miserable existence in our crowded neighbourhoods, sufficiently explain how corrupted foreign numerals have come to the aid of costers and tramps. It is very amusing to observe a buttoned up, half famished Frenchman holding an argument with a London costermonger

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as to the correct pronunciation of CHINKER SALTEE, or the precise meaning of ONEY BEONG. The Frenchman is indignant and rapid, whilst the coster is loud and confidant the "scaly furrener" knows nothing about it.

SALVE, praise, flattery, chaff.

SAM, "to stand SAM," to pay for the drink.

SANK WORK, making soldiers' clothes. *Mayhew* says from the *Norman*, SANC, blood,—in allusion either to the soldier's calling, or the colour of his coat.

SAPSCULL, a simpleton.

SAVELOY, a sausage.

SAWBONES, a doctor.

SAWNEY, or SANDY, a Scotchman. Abbreviation of Alexander.

SAWNEY, a simpleton.

SAWNEY, bacon.

SAWNEY HUNTER, one who steals bacon.

SCAB, a worthless person. *Old.* *Shakspere* uses SCALD in a similar sense.

SCALDRUM DODGE, burning the body with a mixture of acids and gunpowder, so as to suit the hues and complexions of the accident to be deplored.

SCALY, shabby, or mean. *Shakspere* uses SCALD, an old word of reproach.

SCAMMERED, drunk. *Doubtful.*

SCAMP, a graceless fellow, a rascal; formerly the cant term for plundering and thieving. A ROYAL-SCAMP was a highwayman, whilst a FOOT-SCAMP was an ordinary thief with nothing but his legs to trust to in case of an attempt at capture. Some have derived SCAMP from *camp*, with an *s* prefixed, referring to a deserter from the army.

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SCARPER, to run away; "SCARPER with the feele of the donna of the cassey," to run away with the daughter of the landlady of the house. Corruption of *scamper*.

SCHICE, nothing. *See* CHICE.

SCHOOL, or MOB, two or more "patterers" working together in the streets.

SCHOOLING, a low gambling party.

SCHWASSLE BOX, the street performance of Punch and Judy. *Ho. Words*, No. 183.

SCONCE, the head, judgment, sense. *Dutch.*

SCOT, a quantity of anything, a lot.

SCOT, temper or passion; "oh! what a SCOT he was in," *i.e.* what temper he showed.

SCOTCH FIDDLE, the itch.

SCOTCHES, the legs.

SCOUT, a college runner, or errand boy. *Oxford.*

SCRAGGING, hanging. *Old cant.*

SCRAN, pieces of meat, broken victuals. Formerly the reckoning at a public-house. *Scotch.*

SCRANNING, begging for broken victuals.

SCRAPE, a difficulty; SCRAPE, low wit for a shave.

SCRAPE, cheap butter; "bread and SCRAPE," bread and butter.

SCRAPING CASTLE, a water-closet.

SCRATCH, "no great SCRATCH," of little worth.

SCRATCH, a fight, contest, point in dispute; "coming up to the SCRATCH," going or preparing to fight,—in reality approaching the line chalked on the ground to divide the ring. *Pug.*

SCREAMING, first rate, splendid. *Theat.*, but now applied generally.

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SCREEVE, a letter, a begging petition.

SCREEVE, to write, or devise; "to SCREEVE a fakement," to concoct or write a begging letter, or other impostor's document.

SCREEVER, a man who draws with coloured chalks on the pavement figures of our Saviour crowned with thorns, specimens of elaborate writing, thunderstorms, ships on fire, &c. The men who attend these pavement chalkings, and receive halfpence and sixpences from the admirers of street art, are not always the draughtsmen. The artist or SCREEVER drew perhaps in half-a-dozen places that very morning, and rented the spots out to as many cadaverous looking men.

SCREW, a horse. *Ho. Words,* No. 183.

SCREW, a key,—skeleton or otherwise.

SCREW, a turnkey.

SCREW, a mean or stingy person.

SCREWED, intoxicated or drunk.

SCREWS, small packets of tobacco.

SCREW, salary or wages.

SCREW LOOSE, when friends become cold and distant towards each other it is said there is a SCREW LOOSE betwixt them.

SCRIMMAGE, or SCRUMMAGE, a disturbance or row. *Ancient.*

SCROBY, "to get SCROBY," to be whipped in prison before the justices.

SCROUGE, to crowd or squeeze. *Wilts.*

SCRUFF, the back part of the neck seized by an adversary in an encounter.

SCRUMPTIOUS, nice, particular, beautiful. *Suffolk,* SCRUMSHUS, stingy.

SCULL, or SKULL, master of a college. *University.*

SCURF, a mean fellow.

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SELL, to deceive, swindle, or play a practical joke upon a person. A sham is a SELL in street parlance. "SOLD again, and got the money," a costermonger cries after having successfully deceived somebody. *Shakspere* uses SELLING in a similar sense, viz., blinding or deceiving.

SEEDY, worn out, poverty stricken, used up, shabby,—wearing clothes until they crack and go to seed; "how SEEDY he looks,"-said of any man whose clothes are worn threadbare, with greasy facings, and hat brightened up by perspiration and continual polishing and wetting. When a man's coat begins to look worn out and shabby he is said to look seedy, and ready for *cutting*. This term has been "on the streets" for nearly two centuries, and latterly has found its way into most dictionaries. Formerly slang, it is now a recognised word, and one of the most expressive in the English language. The French are always amused with it; they having no similar term.

SENSATION, a quartern of gin.

SERENE, all right; "it's all SERENE," a street phrase of very modern adoption, the burden of a song.

SERVE OUT, to punish, or be revenged on any one.

SETTER, sevenpence.

SETTLE, to kill, ruin, or effectually quiet a person.

SETTLED, transported.

SET TO, a sparring match, a fight; "a dead SET," a determined stand, in argument or in movement.

SEVEN PENNORTH, transportation for seven years.

SEWED-UP, done up, used up, intoxicated. *Dutch*, SEEUWT, sick.

SHACKLY, loose, rickety. *Devon.*

SHAKE, a disreputable man or woman. *North.*

SHAKE, to take away, to steal, or run off with anything; "what SHAKES, Bill?" "None," *i.e.* no chance of committing a robbery. See the following.

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SHAKE, or SHAKES, a bad bargain is said to be "no great SHAKES;" "pretty fair SHAKES," is anything good or favourable. *Byron.* In *America* a FAIR SHAKE is a fair trade or a good bargain.

SHAKE LURK, a false paper carried by an impostor, giving an account of a "dreadful shipwreck."

SHAKER, a shirt.

SHAKESTER, a lady.

SHALER, a girl.

SHALLOW, a flat basket used by costers.

SHALLOWS, "to go on the SHALLOWS," to go half naked.

SHALLOW COVE, a begging rascal who goes about the country half naked,—with the most limited amount of rags upon his person, wearing neither shoes, stockings, or hat.

SHALLOW MOT, a ragged woman,—the frequent companion of the SHALLOW COVE.

SHALLOW SCREEVER, a man who sketches and draws on the pavement. *See* SCREEVER.

SHAM ABRAM, to feign sickness. See ABRAM.

SHANDY-GAFF, ale and ginger beer.

SHANKS, legs.

SHANKS' NAG, "to ride SHANKS' NAG," to go on foot.

SHANT, a pot or quart; "SHANT of bivvy," a quart of beer.

SHAPES, "to cut up or show SHAPES," to exhibit pranks, or flightiness.

SHARPING-OMEE, a policeman.

SHARP'S ALLEY BLOOD WORMS, beef sausages and black puddings. Sharp's alley was formerly a noted slaughtering place near Smithfield.

SHARK, a sharper, a swindler. *Bow Street* term in 1785, now in most dictionaries.

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SHAVER, a sharp fellow; "a young or old SHAVER," a boy or man. *Sea.*

SHEEN, bad money. *Scotch.*

SHELF, young ladies are said to be "on the SHELF" when they cannot meet with a husband; "on the SHELF," pawned.

SHELL OUT, to pay or count out money.

SHICE, nothing; "to do anything for SHICE," to get no payment. *See* CHICE.

SCHICER, a mean man, a humbug,—a person who is either worthless, or will not work.

SHICKERY, shabby, badly.

SHICKSTER, a lady. See SHAKESTER.

SHILLY SHALLY, to trifle or fritter away time; irresolute.

SHINDY, a row, or noise. *Sea.*

SHINE, a row or disturbance.

SHINE, "to take the SHINE out of any person," to surpass or excel them.

SHINERS, sovereigns, or money.

SHINER, a looking-glass.

SHINEY RAG, "to win the SHINEY RAG," to be ruined,—said in gambling when any one continues betting after "luck has set in against him."

SHIP-SHAPE, proper, in good order. *Sea.*

SHIRTY, ill tempered or cross. When one person makes another in an ill humour he is said to have "got his SHIRT out."

SHOE, to free or initiate a person,—a practice common in most trades to a new comer. The SHOEING consists in paying for beer or other drink, which is drunk by the older hands. The cans emptied and the bill paid, the stranger is considered properly SHOD.

SHOE LEATHER, a thief's warning cry when he hears footsteps.

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SHOES, "to die in one's SHOES," to be hung.

SHOOT THE CAT, to vomit.

SHOOT THE MOON, to remove furniture from a house in the night, without paying the landlord.

SHOP BOUNCER, or SHOP LIFTER, a person generally respectably attired who, while being served with a small article at a shop steals one of more value. *Shakspere* has the word LIFTER, a thief.

SHOPPING, purchasing at shops. Termed by *Todd* a slang word, but used by *Cowper* and *Byron*.

SHORT, when spirit is drunk without any admixture of water it is said to be taken SHORT.

SHORT COMMONS, short allowance of food.

SHOT, "I wish I may be SHOT, if," &c., a common form of mild swearing.

SHOVE-HALFPENNY, a gambling street game.

SHOW-FULL, or SCHOFUL, bad money. *Mayhew* thinks this word is from the *Danish* SKUFFE, to shove, to deceive, cheat; *Saxon*, SCUFAN,—whence the *English* SHOVE. The term, however, is one of the many street words from the *Hebrew* (through the low Jews); SHEPHEL, in that language, signifying a *low* or debased estate. *Chaldee*, SHAPHAL. *See* Psalm CXXXVI, 23, "in our *low estate*."

SHOWFULL-PITCHER, a passer of counterfeit money.

SHOWFULL-PITCHING, passing bad money.

SHRIMP, a diminutive person. *Chaucer*.

SHUNT, to throw or turn aside.

SHUT UP, be quiet, dont make a noise; to get SHUT of," to get rid of.

SHY, to fling; COCK-SHY a game at fairs, consisting of throwing short sticks at trinkets set upon other sticks,—both name and practice derived from the old game of throwing or SHYING at live cocks.

SHY, a throw.

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SICK AS A HORSE, popular simile,—curious, because a horse never vomits.

SICKNER, a dose too much of anything.

SIDE BOARDS, or STICK-UPS, shirt collars.

SIMON PURE, "the real SIMON PURE," the genuine article.

SING OUT, to call out loud.

SING SMALL, to lessen one's boasting, and turn arrogance into humility.

SINKERS, bad money.

SITTING PAD, sitting on the pavement in a begging position.

SIVVY, "'pon my SIVVY," *i.e.* upon my soul or honour.

SIXES AND SEVENS, articles in confusion are said to be all SIXES and SEVENS. The Deity is mentioned in the Towneley Mysteries as He that "sett all on seven," *i.e.* set or appointed everything in seven days. A similar phrase at this early date implied confusion and disorder, and from these, *Halliwell* thinks, has been derived the phrase "to be at SIXES AND SEVENS."

SIZE, to sup at one's own expense; extras over and above the usual commons. If a man asks you to *supper*, he treats you; if to *size*, you pay for what you eat—liquors only being provided by the inviter. *Cambridge. Minsheu*, "a farthing which schollers in Cambridge have at the buttery, noted with the letter *s*."

SKATES LURK, a begging impostor dressed as a sailor.

SKID, a sovereign. Fashionable slang.

SKILLY, broth served on board the hulks to convicts. *Linc.*

SKILLIGOLEE, prison gruel.

SKIN, a purse.

SKIN, to abate, or lower the value of anything; "thin SKINNED," sensitive, touchy.

SKIN-FLINT, an old popular simile for a "close-fisted," stingy person.

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SKIPPER, a barn. *Ancient cant.*

SKIPPER IT, to sleep in the open air, or in a rough way.

SKIPPER-BIRDS, or KEYHOLE WHISTLERS, persons who sleep in barns or outhouses in preference to lodging houses.

SKIT, a joke, a squib.

SKITTLES, a game similar to Ten Pins, which, when interdicted by the government was altered to Nine Pins, or SKITTLES. They are set up in an alley and are *thrown at* (not bowled) with a round piece of hard wood, shaped like a small flat cheese. The costers consider themselves the best players in London.

SKY-BLUE, milk,—formerly gin.

SKROUGE, to push or squeeze. *North.*

SKULL-THATCHERS, straw bonnet makers,—sometimes called "bonnet-BUILDERS."

SKY SCRAPER, a tall man; "are you cold up there, old SKY SCRAPER?"

SKY PARLOUR, the garret.

SLANG, low, vulgar, unwritten, or unauthorised language. *Gipsey*, SLANG, the secret language of the Gipsies, synonymous with GIBBERISH, another Gipsey word. This word is only to be found in the Dictionaries of *Webster* and *Ogilvie*. It was, perhaps, first recorded by *Grose*, in his *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, 1785. SLANG, since it has been adopted as an English word, generally implies vulgar language not known, or recognised as CANT.

SLANG, counterfeit, or short weights and measures. A SLANG quart is a pint and a half. SLANG measures are lent out at 2d. per day. The term is used principally by costermongers.

SLANG, to cheat.

SLANG, a travelling show.

SLANG, a watch chain.

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SLAP UP, first rate, excellent, very good.

SLAP BANG, suddenly, violently.

SLAP BANG SHOPS, low eating houses, where you have to pay down the ready money with a SLAP BANG.—*Grose.*

SLAP DASH, immediately, or quickly.

SLASH, a pocket in an overcoat.

SLASHER, a powerful roisterer, or pugilist.

SLAVEY, a maid servant.

SLEWED, drunk, or intoxicated. *Yorks.*

SLICK A DEE, a pocket book.

SLIP, "to give the SLIP," to run away, or elude pursuit.

SLOG, to fight, thrash, or chastise. *Punch*, May 4, 1859.

SLOGGING, a good beating.

SLOMMACK, a slattern, or awkward person. *West.*

SLOP, cheap or ready made, as applied to clothing is generally supposed to be a modern appropriation, but it was used in this sense in 1691 by *Maydman*, in his *Naval Speculations*, and by *Chaucer* two centuries before that.

SLOP, a policeman.

SLOPE, to decamp, to run, or rather *slip* away. Originally from LOPE, to make off; the *s* probably became affixed as a portion of the preceding word, as in the case of "*let's lope*," let us run.

SLOPS, chests or packages of tea; "he shook a slum of SLOPS," stole a chest of tea.

SLOUR, to lock or fasten.

SLOUR'D, buttoned up; SLOUR'D HOXTER, an inside pocket buttoned up.

SLOWED, to be locked up—in prison.

SLUICERY, a gin shop, or public house.

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SLUM, a letter.

SLUM, a chest, or package. *See* SLOPS.

SLUMS, dark retreats, low neighbourhoods; "Westminster SLUMS," favourite haunts for thieves.

SLUM, gammon; "up to SLUM," wide awake, knowing.

SLUM THE GORGER, to cheat on the sly, to be an eye servant. SLUM in this sense is *old cant*.

SLUSHY, a ship's cook.

SMACK SMOOTH, even, level with the surface quickly.

SMASH, to become bankrupt, or worthless; "to go all to SMASH," to break, or "go to the dogs."

SMASH, to pass counterfeit money.

SMASHER, one who passes bad coin.

SMASHFEEDER, a silver spoon.

SMELLER, a blow on the nose, or a NOSER.

SMIGGINS, soup served to convicts on board the hulks.

SMISH, a shirt, or chemise. Corruption of the *Spanish*. *See* MISH.

SMUG, neat, after the fashion, in order.

SMUG, to snatch another's property and run.

SMUGGINGS, snatchings or purloinings,—shouted out by boys, when snatching the tops, or small play property of other lads, and then running off at full speed.

> Tops are in; spin 'em agin,
> Tops are out; SMUGGING about.

SMUT, a copper boiler.

SNACK, booty or share. *Old cant and Gipsey term.*

SNAGGLE TEETH, uneven, and unpleasant looking dental operators. *West.*

SNAGGLING, angling after geese with a hook and line, the bait being a worm or snail. The goose swallows the bait, and is quietly landed and bagged.

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SNAPPS, share, portion, any articles or circumstances out of which money may be made; "looking out for SNAPPS," waiting for windfalls. *Old.*

SNEAKSMAN, a shoplifter; a petty cowardly thief.

SNEEZER, a snuff box; a pocket handkerchief.

SNEEZE LURKER, a thief who throws snuff in a person's face and then robs them.

SNID, a sixpence. *Scotch.*

SNIGGERING, laughing to one's self. *East.*

SNIP, a tailor.

SNITCHERS, persons who turn queen's evidence, or who tell tales.

SNOB, a low, vulgar, or affected person. Supposed to be from the nickname usually applied to Crispin, or a maker of shoes, but believed by a writer in *Notes and Queries* to be a contraction of the *Lat.* SINE OBOLO. Another "word twister" says it is only NOB with an S prefixed, thus reversing its meaning. *See* SCAMP.

SNOBBISH, stuck up, proud, make believe.

SNOOZE, or SNOODGE (vulgar pronunciation), to sleep or doze.

SNOT, a term of reproach applied to persons by the vulgar when vexed or annoyed. In a Westminster school vocabulary for boys, published in the last century, the term is curiously applied. Its proper meaning is the glandular mucus discharged through the nose.

SNOTTER, or WIPEHAULER, a pickpocket who commits great depredations upon gentlemen's pocket handkerchiefs. *North.*

SNOW, wet linen.

SNOW GATHERERS, rogues who steal linen from hedges and lines.

SNUFF, "up to SNUFF," knowing and sharp; "to take SNUFF," to be offended.

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SOAP, flattery.

SOFT, foolish, inexperienced,—formerly bank notes. *Old.*

SOFT-SOAP, flattery, ironical praise.

SOFT TACK, bread. *Sea.*

SOLD UP, or OUT, broken down, bankrupt.

SOLDIER, a red herring.

SOOT BAG, a reticule.

SOP, a soft, or foolish man.

SOPH, an under graduate in his second year. *Cant.*

SOUND, to pump, or draw information from a person in an artful manner.

SOUPER, a watch.

SOW'S BABY, a pig; sixpence.

SPANK, a smack, or hard slap.

SPANK, to drive along quickly.

SPANKER, a fast trotting horse.

SPANKING, a good beating.

SPANKING, large, fine or strong. *Johnson* only notices the word in this sense, terming it a colloquialism.

SPECKS, damaged oranges.

SPEEL, to run away, make off; "SPEEL the drum," to go off with stolen property. *North.*

SPICK AND SPAN, applied to anything that is quite new and fresh. *Hudibras.*

SPIFFS, the percentage allowed by drapers to their young men when they effect sale of old fashioned or undesirable stock.

SPIFLICATE, to confound, silence, or thrash.

SPIN-EM-ROUNDS, a street game consisting of a piece of brass, wood, or iron, balanced on a pin and turned quickly around on a board, when the point, arrow shaped, stops at a number

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and decides the bet one way or the other. The contrivance very much resembles a sea compass, and was formerly the gambling accompaniment of London piemen. The apparatus then was erected on the tin lids of their pie cans, and the bets were ostensibly for pies, but more frequently for "coppers," when no policeman frowned upon the scene, and when two or three apprentices or porters happened to meet.

SPINIKIN, a workhouse.

SPITFIRE, a passionate person.

SPLENDIFEROUS, sumptuous, first rate.

SPLICE, to marry. *Sea.*

SPLIT, to inform against one's companions, to tell tales. "To SPLIT with a person," to cease acquaintanceship, to quarrel.

SPOONEY, a weak-minded and foolish person, effeminate or fond; SPOON, synonymous with SPOONEY.

SPORT, to exhibit.

SPOTTED, to be known or marked by the police.

SPOUT, "up the SPOUT," at the pawnbroker's; SPOUTING, pawning.

SPOUT, to preach, or make speeches.

SPOUTER, a preacher, or lecturer.

SPRAT, sixpence.

SPREAD, butter.

SPREAD, a lady's shawl. SPREAD, at the *East* end of London, a feast, or a TIGHTENER; at the *West* end a fashionable reunion.

SPREE, a boisterous piece of merriment; "going on the SPREE," starting out with intent to have a frolic.

SPRINGER-UP, a tailor who sells low priced ready made clothing, and gives starvation wages to the poor men and women who "make up" for him. The clothes are said to be "sprung up," or "blown together."

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SPUDDY, a seller of bad potatoes.

SPUNK, courage. *Americanism.*

SPUNKS, matches. *Herefordshire;* SPUNK, says Urry, in his MS. notes to Ray, "is the excrescency of some tree, of which they make a sort of timber to light their pipes with."

SPUNK-FENCER, a lucifer match seller.

SPURT, a short distance, or a small quantity.

SQUABBY, flat, short and thick.

SQUARE, honest; "on the SQUARE," *i.e.* fair and strictly honest; "to turn SQUARE," to reform and get one's living in an honest manner,—the opposite of CROSS.

SQUARE, "to be SQUARE with a man," to be revenged; "to SQUARE up to a man," to offer to fight him. *Shakspere* uses SQUARE in the sense of to quarrel.

SQUARE COVE, an honest man.

SQUARE MOLL, an honest woman.

SQUARE RIGGED, well dressed. *Sea.*

SQUARING HIS NIBS, giving a policeman money.

SQUINEY EYED, squinting. *Shaks.*

SQUIRT, a doctor, or chemist.

SQUSH, or SQUASH, to crush. *West.*

SQUEEZE, silk.

SQUIB, a temporary jeu d'esprit, which, like the firework of that denomination, sparkles, bounces, stinks, and vanishes. *Grose.*

STAFF NAKED, gin.

STAG, a shilling.

STAG, to see, discover, or watch; "STAG the push," look at the crowd.

STAGGER, one who looks out, or watches.

STALL, a pretence, a dodge. *Ancient cant.*

STALL, to lodge, or put up at a public house.

STALL OFF, to blind, excuse, or hide; to move off.

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STALL OFF, a dodge, a blind, or an excuse.

STALL YOUR MUG, go away; spoken sharply by any one who wishes to get rid of a troublesome or inconvenient person.

STALLSMAN, an accomplice.

STAMPERS, shoes. *Ancient cant.*

STAND, "to STAND treat," to pay for a friend's entertainment; to bear expense; to put up with treatment, good or ill; "this house STOOD me in £1000," *i.e.* cost that sum; "to STAND pad," to beg on the curb with a small piece of paper pinned on the breast.

STANDING, the position at a street corner, or on the curb of a market street, regularly occupied by a costermonger, or street seller.

STANDING PATTERERS, men who take a stand on the curb of a public thoroughfare, and deliver prepared speeches to effect a sale of any articles they have to vend. *See* PATTERER.

STARCHY, stuck-up, high-notioned, showily dressed, disdainful, cross.

STAR IT, to perform as the centre of attraction, with inferior subordinates to set off one's abilities. *Theat.*

STAR THE GLAZE, to break the window or show glass of a jeweller or other tradesman, and take any valuable articles, and run away. Sometimes the glass is cut with a diamond, and a strip of leather fastened to the piece of glass cut out to keep it from falling in and making a noise. Another plan is to cut the sash.

STASH, to cease doing anything, to refrain, be quiet, leave off; "STASH IT, there, you sir!" be quiet, sir; to give over a lewd or intemperate course of life is termed STASHING IT.

STEEL, the house of correction in London, formerly named the *Bastile*, but since shortened to STEEL.

STEEL BAR DRIVERS, or FLINGERS, journeymen tailors.

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STEP IT, to run away or make off.

STICK, a person; "a rum" or "odd STICK," a curious man. *Warw.*

STICK, "cut your STICK," be off, or go away,—from the ancient mode of reckoning by notches or tallies on a stick. In Cornwall the peasantry tally sheaves of corn by cuts in a stick, reckoning by the score. CUT YOUR STICK, then, means to make your mark and pass on,—and this realizes the meaning of the phrase "IN THE NICK (or notch) OF TIME."

STICK, to cheat; "he got STUCK," he was taken in; STICK, to forget one's part in a performance. *Theat.*

STICK ON, to overcharge, or defraud.

STICK, "to STICK UP for any one," to defend them.

STICKS, furniture, or household chattels; "pick up your STICKS and cut!" summary advice to a person to take himself and furniture away. *Cumb.*

STICKS, pistols. *Nearly obsolete.* "Cross as two STICKS," in a passion.

STICKINGS, bruised or damaged meat sold to sausage makers and penny pie shops. *North.*

STICKY, wax.

STIFF, paper, a bill of acceptance, &c.; "how did you get it, STIFF or *hard*?" *i.e.* did he pay you cash or give a bill?

STIFF FENCER, a street seller of writing paper.

STILTON, "that's the STILTON," or "it is not the STILTON," *i.e.* that is quite the thing, or that is not quite the thing;—polite rendering of "that is not the CHEESE," which see.

STINGO, strong liquor. *Yorks.*

STINK, a disagreeable exposure.

STIR, a prison, a lock-up; "IN STIR," in jail. *Anglo Saxon*, STYR, correction, punishment?

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STONE JUG, a prison.

STOOK, a pocket-handkerchief.

STOOK HAULER, or BUZZER, a thief who takes pocket-handkerchiefs.

STOP, a detective policeman.

STORY, a falsehood,—the soft synonyme for a *lie*, allowed in family circles and boarding schools. A Puritanism that came in fashion with the tirade against romances,—all novels and stories being considered as dangerous and false.

STOTOR, a heavy blow, a SETTLER. *Old cant.*

STOW, to leave off, or have done; "STOW IT, the gorger's leary," leave off, the person is looking. *See* STASH, with which it is synonymous. *Ancient cant.*

STOW FAKING, leave off there, be quiet! FAKING, implying anything that may be going on.

STRAWING, *selling* straws in the streets (generally for a penny) and *giving* the purchaser a paper (indecent or political), or a gold (!) ring,—neither of which the patterer states he is allowed to sell.

STREAK, to run, or make off. *Sax.*

STREET PITCHERS, negro minstrels, ballad singers, long song men, men "working a board" on which have been painted various exciting scenes in some terrible drama, the details of which the STREET PITCHER is bawling out, and selling in a little book or broadsheet (price one penny); or any persons who make a stand in the streets, and sell articles for their living.

STRETCH, twelve months,—generally used to intimate how long any one has been sentenced by the judge or magistrate. ONE STRETCH is to be imprisoned twelve months, TWO-STRETCH is two years, THREE STRETCH is three years, and so on.

STRETCHER, a falsehood.

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STRETCHER FENCER, one who sells braces.

STRETCHER, a contrivance with handles, used by the police to carry off persons who are violent or drunk.

STRETCHING, hanging.

STRIKE THE JIGGER, to pick the lock, or break open the door.

STRIKE ME LUCKY! a simple form of oath common amongst the lower orders when making a bargain, and appealing to their honour. *Hudibras.*

STROMMEL, straw. *Ancient cant.*

STRUMMEL, the hair. *Norf.*

STUFF, money.

STUFF, to make believe, to chaff, to tell false stories.

STUFF, to make false but plausible statements, to praise ironically, to make game of a person,—literally to STUFF him with gammon or falsehood.

STUMP, to go on foot.

STUMPED, done up, bankrupt, poverty stricken.

STUMPY, money.

STUMP UP, to pay one's share, to pay the reckoning, to bring forth the money reluctantly.

STUMPS, legs, or feet.

STUN, to astonish.

STUNNER, a first-rate person or article.

STUNNERS, feelings of great astonishment; "it put the STUNNERS on me," it confounded me.

STUNNING, first-rate, very good. "STUNNING pears," shouts the coster, "only eight a penny." Vide *Athenæum*, 26 March, 1859.

STUNNED ON SKILLY, to be sent to prison and compelled to eat, SKILLY, or SKILLIGOLEE.

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STURABAN, a prison.

SUCK, to pump, or draw information from a person.

SUCK-CASSA, a public-house.

SUFFERER, a tailor.

SUIT, a watch and seals.

SUP, abbreviation of *supernumerary*. *Theat.*

SURF, an actor who frequently pursues another calling. *Theat.*

SWADDY, or COOLIE, a soldier.

SWAG, a lot or plenty of anything, a portion or division of property. *Scotch*, SWEG, or SWACK; *Ger.*, SWEIG a flock. *Old cant* for a shop.

SWAG, booty, or plundered property; "collar the SWAG," seize the booty.

SWAGSMAN, one who carries the booty after a burglary.

SWAG-SHOP, a warehouse where "Brummagem" and general wares are sold,—fancy trinkets, plated goods, &c. Jews are the general proprietors, and the goods are excessively low priced, trashy, and showy. "SWAG-SHOPS" were formerly plunder depôts. *Old cant.*

SWANKEY, cheap beer. *West.*

SWAP, to exchange. *Grose* says it is *Irish* cant, but the term is now included in most dictionaries as an allowed vulgarism.

SWEATER, common term for a "cutting" or "grinding" employer.

SWEEP, a low or shabby man.

SWEET, loving or fond; "how SWEET he was upon the moll," *i.e.* what marked attention he paid the girl.

SWELL, a person with a showy, jaunty exterior; "a rank SWELL," a very "flashly" dressed person, a man who by excessive dress apes a higher position than he actually occupies. Anything is said to be SWELL or SWELLISH that looks showy

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or is many coloured, or is of a desirable quality. Dickens and Thackeray are termed great SWELLS in literature. So indeed are the first persons in the learned professions.

SWELL FENCER, a street salesman of needles.

SWIG, a hearty drink.

SWIG, to drink.

SWINDLER, although a recognised word in respectable dictionaries, commenced service as a slang term. It was used as such by the poor Londoners against the German Jews who set up in London about the year 1762, also by our soldiers in the German War about that time. SCHWINDEL, in *German*, signifies to cheat.

SWING, to be hanged.

SWINGING, large, huge.

SWIPES, sour, or small beer. *Sea.*

SWIPEY (from SWIPES), intoxicated.

SWISHED, married.

T, "to suit to a T," to fit to a nicety. *Old.*

TACKLE, clothes. *Sea.*

TAFFY, a Welshman.

TAG-RAG-AND-BOBTAIL, a mixed crowd of low people, mobility.

TAIL BUZZER, a thief who picks coat pockets.

TAKE, to succeed, or be patronized, "do you think the new opera will TAKE?" "No, because the same company TOOK so badly under the old management."

TAKE, "to TAKE ON," to grieve; *Shakspere* uses the word TAKING in this sense. To "TAKE UP for any one," to protect or defend a person; "to TAKE OFF," to mimic; "to TAKE heart," to have courage; "to TAKE down a peg or two," to humiliate or tame; "to TAKE UP," to reprove; "to TAKE AFTER," to resemble; "to TAKE IN," to cheat or defraud, &c.

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TAKE IN, a cheating or swindling transaction,—sometimes termed "a DEAD TAKE IN." *Shakspere* has TAKE IN in the sense of conquering.

TAKE BEEF, to run away.

TALLY, five dozen bunches of turnips.

TAN, to beat or thrash.

TANNER, a sixpence. *Gipsey*, TAWNO, little?

TANNY, or TEENY, little. *Gipsey*, TAWNO, little.

TANTREMS, pranks, capers, or frolicking.

TAPE, gin,—term with female servants.

TAPER, to gradually give over, to run short.

TAT BOX, a dice box.

TATLER, a watch; "nimming a TATLER," stealing a watch.

TATS, dice.

TATS, old rags; MILKY TATS, white rags.

TATTING, gathering old rags.

TAW, a large or principal marble; "I'll be one on your TAW," I will pay you out, or be even with you,—a simile taken from boys aiming always at winning the TAW when playing at marbles.

TEAGUELAND, Ireland.

TELL-ON, to tell about.

TESTER, sixpence. From TESTONE, a shilling in the reign of Hen. VIII., but a sixpence in the time of Q. Eliz. *Shakspere.*

TEVISS, a shilling.

THEATRE, a police court.

THICK, intimate, familiar.

THICK-UN, a sovereign; a crown piece, or five shillings.

THIMBLE, or YACK, a watch.

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THIMBLE-RIG, a noted cheating game played at fairs and places of great public thronging, consisting of two or three thimbles rapidly and dexterously placed over a pea, when the THIMBLE-RIGGER, suddenly ceasing, asks you under which thimble the pea is to be found. If you are not a practised hand you will lose nine times out of ten any bet you may happen to make with him.

THIMBLE TWISTERS, thieves who rob persons of their watches.

THREE SHEETS IN THE WIND, intoxicated.

THREE-UP, a gambling game played by costers. Three half-pennies are thrown up, and when they fall all "heads," or all "tails," it is a mark; and the man who gets the greatest number of marks out of a given amount,—three, five, or more—wins. The costers are very quick and skilful at this game, and play fairly at it amongst themselves; but should a stranger join in they invariably unite to cheat him.

THRUMS, threepence.

THRUMMER, a threepenny bit.

THRUPS, threepence.

THUMPING, large, fine, or strong.

THUNDERER, the "*Times*" newspaper.

THUNDERING, large, extra-sized.

TICK, credit, trust. *Johnson* says it is a corruption of *ticket*,—tradesmen's bills being formerly written on tickets or cards. ON TICK, therefore, is equivalent to *on ticket*, or on trust. In use 1668.

TICKER, a watch.

TICKET, "that's the TICKET," *i.e.* what was wanted, or what is best. Corruption of "that is not *etiquette*," by adding, in vulgar pronunciation, *th* to the first *e* of etiquette; or, perhaps, from TICKET, a bill or invoice. *See* TICK.

TIDY, tolerably, or pretty well; "how did you get on to-day?"—"Oh, TIDY." *Sax.*

TIED UP, given over, finished.

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TIGHT, close, stingy; hard up, short of cash.

TIGHT, drunk, or nearly so.

TIGHTNER, a dinner, or hearty meal.

TIKE, or BUFFER LURKING, dog stealing.

TILE, a hat.

TIMBER MERCHANT, or SPUNK FENCER, a lucifer match seller.

TIN, money,—generally applied to silver.

TIP, to give, lend, or hand over anything to another person; "come, TIP up the tin," *i.e.* hand up the money; "TIP the wink," to inform by winking. *Old cant.*

TIP THE DOUBLE, to "bolt," or run away from a creditor or officer. Sometimes TIP THE DOUBLE TO SHERRY, *i.e.* to the sheriff.

TIP-TOP, first-rate, of the best kind.

TIPTOPPER, a "swell," or dressy man.

TIT, familiar name for a horse.

TIT FOR TAT, an equivalent.

TITIVATE, to put in order, or dress up.

TITLEY, drink.

TITTER, a girl.

TIZZY, a sixpence.

TOBY CONSARN, a highway expedition.

TOBY, a road, "high TOBY," the turnpike road.

TO-DO (pronounced quickly and as one word), a disturbance, trouble; "here's a pretty TO-DO," here is an unpleasant difficulty.

TODDLE, to walk as a child.

TOFT, a showy individual, a SWELL, a person who, according to a Yorkshireman's vocabulary, is UP-ISH.

TOG, a coat. *Lat.* TOGA. *Ancient cant.*

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TOG, to dress, or equip with an outfit; "TOGGED out to the nines," dressed in the first style.

TOGGS, clothes; "Sunday TOGGS," best clothes. One of the oldest cant words, in use in the time of Henry VIII.

TOGGERY, clothes, harness, domestic paraphernalia of any kind.

TOKE, dry bread.

TOMMY SHOP, where wages are generally paid to mechanics or others who are expected to "take out" a portion of the money in goods.

TOM-TOM, an odd musical instrument played upon in the streets.

TOOL, "a poor TOOL," a bad hand at anything.

TOOL, to drive a mail coach.

TOOL, to pick pockets.

TOOLER, a pickpocket. MOLL-TOOLER, a female pickpocket.

TOPHEAVY, drunk.

TOPPED, hung or executed.

TOP-SAWYER, the principal of a party, or profession.

TOPS, dying speeches and gallows broadsides.

TOPSY-TURVY, the bottom upwards. *Grose* gives an ingenious etymology of this once cant term, viz., "*top-side turf-ways*," —turf being always laid the wrong side upwards.

TO-RIGHTS, excellent, very well, or good.

TOSHERS, men who steal copper from ships' bottoms in the Thames.

TOSS, a measure of sprats.

TOUCHER, "as near as a TOUCHER," as near as possible without actually touching. *North*, TOUCHER, a trifle, a little.

TOUCHY, peevish, irritable. *Johnson* terms it a low word.

TOUT, to look out, or watch. *Old cant.*

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TOUTER, a looker out, one who watches for customers, a hotel runner.

TOWEL, to beat or whip. In *Warwickshire* an oaken stick is termed a TOWEL,—whence, perhaps, the vulgar verb.

TOWELLING, a severe beating.

TO WORK ONE'S FISTS, to be skilful in boxing.

TRACKS, "to make TRACKS," to run away.

TRANSLATOR, a man who deals in old shoes or clothes, and refits them for cheap wear.

TRANSLATORS, second-hand boots mended and polished, and sold at a low price. Monmouth street, Seven Dials, is a great market for TRANSLATORS.

TRANSMOGRIFY, to alter or change.

TRAP, an open carriage.

TRAP, a sheriff's officer.

TRAPESING, gadding or gossiping about in a slatternly way. *North.*

TRAVELLER, name given by one tramp to another.

TREE, "up a TREE," in temporary difficulties,—out of the way.

TRINE, to hang. *Ancient Cant.*

TROLLING, sauntering or idling.

TROTTERS, feet.

TROTTING CASES, shoes.

TRUCK, to exchange or barter.

TRUCKS, trowsers.

TRUMP, a good fellow; "a regular TRUMP," a jolly or good natured person,—in allusion to a TRUMP card; "TRUMPS may turn up," *i.e.* fortune may yet favour me.

TUB THUMPING, preaching or speech making.

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TUCK IN, a good meal.

TUMBLE, to comprehend or understand. A coster was asked what he thought of *Macbeth*,—"the witches and the fighting was all very well, but the other moves I could'nt TUMBLE to exactly; few on us can TUMBLE to the jaw-breakers, they licks us, they do."

TURF, horse racing and betting thereon; "on the TURF," connected with horse racing.

TURKEY-MERCHANTS, dealers in plundered or contraband silk. Poulterers are sometimes termed TURKEY MERCHANTS, in remembrance of Horne Tooke's answer to the boys at Eton, who wished in an aristocratic way to know who *his* father was,—a TURKEY MERCHANT, replied Tooke;—his father was a poulterer. TURKEY MERCHANT, also, was formerly slang for a driver of turkeys or geese to market.

TURNED OVER, to be stopped and searched by the police.

TURNED UP, acquitted by the magistrate or judge for want of evidence.

TURNER OUT, a coiner of bad money.

TURN OUT, personal show or appearance; a man with a showy carriage and horses is said to have a good TURN OUT.

TURNPIKE-SAILORS, beggars who go about dressed as sailors.

TURN UP, a street fight; a sudden leaving, or making off.

TURN UP, to quit, change, abscond, or abandon; "Ned has TURNED UP," *i.e.* run away; "I intend TURNING IT UP," *i.e.* leaving my present abode or altering my course of life.

TURN UP, to run away, to "slope."

TUSHEROON, a crown piece, five shillings.

TUSSLE, a pull, struggle, fight, or argument. *Johnson and Webster* call it a vulgar word.

TUSSLE, to struggle, or argue.

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TWIG, style, à-la-mode; "get your strummel faked in TWIG," *i.e.* have your hair dressed in style; PRIME TWIG, in good order, and high spirits. *Pug.*

TWIG, to understand, detect, or observe.

TWITCHETTY, nervous, fidgetty.

TWIST, brandy and gin mixed.

TWITTER, "all in a TWITTER," in a fright, or fidgetty state.

TWOPENNY, the head; "tuck in your TWOPENNY," bend down your head.

TWOPENNY-HOPS, low dancing rooms, the price of admission to which was formerly—and not infrequently now—two pence. The Clog hornpipe, the pipe dance, flash jigs, and hornpipes in fetters *à la* Jack Shepherd, are the favourite movements, all entered into with great spirit and "joyous, laborious capering." *Mayhew.*

TYE, or TIE, a neckerchief. Proper hosier's term now, but slang thirty years ago, and as early as 1718.

UNBETTY, to unlock. *See* BETTY.

UNCLE, the pawnbroker. *See* MY UNCLE.

UP, "to be UP to a thing or two," to be knowing, or understanding; "to put a man UP to a move," to teach him a trick; "it's all UP with him," *i.e.* it is all over with him.

UP TO ONE'S GOSSIP, to be a match for a person who attempts to cheat or deceive.

UP TO SLUM, proficient in roguery, capable of committing a theft successfully.

UP TO SNUFF, knowing, thoroughly wide awake, well acquainted with "the last new move."

UPPER BENJAMIN, a great coat.

UPPER STORY, a person's head; "his UPPER STORY is unfurnished," *i.e.* he does not know very much.

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UPPISH, proud, arrogant.

USED UP, broken hearted, bankrupt, fatigued.

VAMOS, or VAMOUS, to go, or be off. *Span.* Probably NAMUS, or NAMOUS, the costermongers' word, was from this, although it is generally considered back slang.

VAMPS, old stockings. From VAMP, to piece.

VARDO, to look; "VARDO the cassey," look at the house. VARDO was *old cant* for a waggon.

VARMENT, "you young VARMENT, you!" you bad or naughty boy. Corruption of vermin.

VELVET, the tongue.

VERTICAL-CARE-GRINDER, the treadmill.

VIC, the Victoria Theatre, London,—patronised principally by costermongers and low people.

VILLE, or VILE, a town or village,—pronounced *phial*, or *vial*. *French.*

VINNIED, mildewed, or sour. *Devon.*

VOKER, to talk; "can you VOKER Romany?" can you speak the canting language.

WABBLE, to move from side to side, to roll about. *Johnson* terms it a "low, barbarous word."

WALKER! an ironical ejaculation of surprise, said when a person is telling a story which you know to be all gammon, or false.

WALK INTO, to overcome, to demolish; "I'le walk into his affections," *i.e.* I will scold or thrash him.

WALK OVER, a re-election without opposition. *Parliamentary.*

WALK-THE-BARBER, to lead a girl astray.

WALK YOUR CHALKS, be off, or run away,—spoken sharply by any one who wishes to get rid of you.

WALLOP, to beat, or thrash.

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WALLOPING, a beating or thrashing,—sometimes in an adjective sense, as big, or very large.

WAPPING, or WHOPPING, large size, great.

WARM, rich, or well off.

WATCHMAKER, a pickpocket, or stealer of watches.

WATTLES, ears.

WAXY, cross, ill tempered.

WEDGE, silver. *Old cant.*

WEDGE-FEEDER, silver spoon.

WEED, a cigar, or tobacco generally.

WENCH, provincial and old fashioned term for a girl. In *America* negro girls only are termed wenches.

WET, to drink. Low people generally ask an acquaintance to WET any recently purchased article—*i.e.* to stand treat on the occasion.

WHACK, a share or lot; "give me my WHACK," give me my share. *Scotch*, SWEG, or SWACK; *Ger.*, SWEIG, a flock.

WHACK, or WHACKING, a blow or a thrashing.

WHACK, to beat.

WHACKING, large, fine or strong.

WHALE, "very like a WHALE," said of anything that is very improbable.

WHEEDLE, to entice by soft words. "This word cannot be found to derive itself from any other, and therefore is look'd upon as wholly invented by the CANTERS."—*Triumph of Wit*, 1705.

WHERRET, to scold, trouble, or annoy. *Old English.*

WHIDDLE, to enter into a parley, or hesitate with many words, &c.; to inform, or discover.

WHIDS, words. *Old gipsey cant.*

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WHIP, to "WHIP anything *up*," to take it up quickly. Generally used to express anything dishonestly taken. *L'Estrange* and *Johnson.*

WHIPPER-SNAPPER, a waspish, diminutive person.

WHIPPING THE CAT, when an operative works at a private house by the day,—term amongst tailors and carpenters.

WHISTLE, "to wet one's WHISLE," to drink; "as clean as a WHISTLE," neatly, or "SLICKLY done," as the American would say.

WHITE LIVER'D, or LIVER FACED, cowardly, very mean, or much afraid.

WHITE PROP, a diamond pin.

WHITE SATIN, gin,—term amongst women.

WHITE TAPE, gin,—term used principally by females.

WHITE LIE, a harmless lie, one told to reconcile people at variance; "mistress is not at home, sir," is a white lie often told by servants.

WHITEWASHED, when a person has taken the benefit of the Insolvent Act he is said to have been WHITEWASHED.

WHOP, to beat, or hide. Corruption of WHIP.

WHOPPER, a big one, a lie.

WHOPPING, a severe beating; large, or great.

WIDDLE, to shine. *See* OLIVER.

WIDE-AWAKE, a broad brimmed felt, or stuff hat.

WIDO, wide awake, no fool.

WIFFLE-WOFFLES, in the dumps, sorrow, stomach ache.

WIFE, a fetter fixed to one leg. *Prison.*

WILD OATS, youthful pranks.

WIND, "to raise the WIND," to procure money.

WINDED-SETTLED, transported for life.

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WINEY, intoxicated.

WINKS, periwinkles.

WINN, a penny. *Ancient cant.*

WIPE, a pocket handkerchief. *Old cant.*

WIPE, a blow.

WIPE, to strike; "he fetcht me a WIPE over the knuckles," he struck me on the knuckles. *East.*

WIPE OFF, to pay one's debts,—in allusion to the slate or chalk methods of account keeping.

WIRE, a thief with long fingers, expert at picking ladies' pockets.

WOBBLESHOP, where beer is sold without a license.

WOODEN SPOON, the last junior optime who takes a University degree. *Cambridge.*

WOOL-GATHERING, said of any person's wits when they are wandering, or in a reverie. *Florio.*

WOOL-HOLE, the workhouse.

WORK, to WORK a street or neighbourhood, trying at each house to sell all one can, or so bawling that every housewife may know what you have to sell. The general plan is to drive a donkey barrow a short distance, and then stop and cry. The term implies thoroughness, to "WORK a street well" is a common saying with a coster.

WORK THE ORACLE, to succeed by manœuvering, to concert a wily plan, to victimize. Does it refer to the *Delphic Oracle?*

WORM, *see* PUMP.

WORMING, removing the beard of an oyster or muscle.

WRINKLE, an idea, or fancy.

YACK, a watch.

YARN, a long story, or tale; "spin a YARN," tell a tale. *Sea.*

YELLOW BELLY, a native of the pens of Lincolnshire.—in allusion to the eels caught there.

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YELLOW-BOY, a sovereign, or any gold coin.

YELLOW-GLOAK, a jealous man.

YOKEL, a countryman. *West.*

YOKUFF, a chest, or large box.

YORKSHIRE, "to YORKSKIRE," or "come YORKSHIRE over any person" is to cheat or BITE them. *North.*

YOUR-NIBS, yourself.

ZOUNDS, a sudden exclamation,—abbreviation of *God's wounds.*

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SOME ACCOUNT OF THE

BACK SLANG,

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF COSTERMONGERS.

THE Costermongers of London number between thirty and forty thousand. Like other low tribes, they boast a language or secret tongue, in which they hide their earnings, movements, and other private affairs. This Costers' speech, as Mayhew remarks, offers no new fact, or approach to a fact, for philologists; it is not very remarkable for originality of construction; neither is it spiced with low humour, as other cant. But the costermongers boast that it is known only to themselves; that it is far beyond the Irish, and puzzles the Jews.

The main principle of this language is spelling the words backwards, or rather pronouncing them rudely backwards. Sometimes for the sake of harmony, an extra syllable is prefixed, or annexed;

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and occasionally the word is given quite a different turn in rendering it backwards, from what an uninitiated person would have expected. One coster told Mayhew that he often gave the end of a word "a new turn, just as if he chorussed it with a tol-de-rol." Besides, the coster has his own idea of the *proper* way of spelling words, and is not to be convinced but by an overwhelming show of learning,—and frequently not then, for he is a very head-strong fellow. By the time a coster has spelt an ordinary word of two or three syllables in the proper way, and then spelt it backwards, it has become a tangled knot that no etymologist could unravel. The word GENERALIZE, for instance, is considered to be "shilling" spelt backwards. Sometimes slang and cant words are introduced, and even these, when imagined to be tolerably well known, are pronounced backwards. Other terms, such as GEN, a shilling, and FLATCH, a halfpenny, help to confuse the outsider.

After a time, this back language, or BACK-SLANG, as it is called by the costermongers themselves, comes to be regarded by the rising generation of street sellers as a distinct and regular mode of speech. They never refer words, by inverting

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them, to their originals, and the YENEPS, and ESCLOPS, and NAMOWS are looked upon as proper, but secret terms. "But it is a curious fact that lads who become costermongers' boys, without previous association with the class, acquire a very ready command of the language, and this though they are not only unable to spell, but 'don't know a letter in a book.'"* They soon obtain a considerable stock vocabulary, so that they converse rather from the memory than the understanding. Amongst the senior costermongers, and those who pride themselves on their proficiency in BACK SLANG, a conversation is often sustained for a whole evening, especially if any "flatties" are present whom they wish to astonish or confuse. The women use it sparingly, but the girls are generally well acquainted with it.

The addition of an *s*, I should state, always forms the plural, so that this is another source of complication. For instance, *woman* in the BACK SLANG, is NAMOW, and NAMUS, or NAMOWS, is *women*, not NEMOW. The explorer, then, in undoing the BACK SLANG, and turning the word NAMUS once more into English, would have *suman*,—a novel

* *Mayhew*, vol. i. p. 24.

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and very extraordinary rendering of *women*. Where a word is refractory in submitting to a back rendering, as in the case of *pound*, letters are made to change positions for the sake of harmony, thus we have DUNOP, a pound, instead of *dnuop*, which nobody could pleasantly pronounce. This will remind the reader of the Jews' "*old clo*," "*old clo*," instead of *old clothes, old clothes*, which would tire even the patience of a Jew to repeat all day.

This singular BACK tongue has been in vogue about fifteen years. It is, as before stated, soon acquired, and is principally used by the costermongers (as the specimen glossary will show), for communicating the secrets of their street tradings, the cost and profit of the goods, and for keeping their natural enemies, the police, in the dark. COOL THE ESCLOP (look at the police) is often said amongst them when one of the constabulary is making his appearance.

Perhaps on no one subject is the costermonger so particular as on money matters. All costs and profits, he thinks should be kept profoundly secret. The back slang, therefore, give the various small amounts very minutely.

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FLATCH, halfpenny.
YENEP, penny.
OWT-YENEPS, two pence.
ERTH-YENEPS, three pence.
ROUF-YENEPS, four pence.
EVIF, or EWIF-YENEPS, five pence.
EXIS-YENEPS, six pence.
NEVIS-YENEPS, seven pence.
TEAICH, or THEG-YENEPS, eight pence.
ENIN-YENEPS, nine pence.
NET-YENEPS, ten pence.
NEVELÉ-YENEPS, eleven pence.
EVLÉNET-YENNEPS, twelve pence.
GEN, or GENERALIZE, one shilling or twelve pence.
YENEP-FLATCH, three halfpence.
OWT-YENEP-FLATCH, two pence halfpenny.

&c., &c., &c.

GEN, or ENO-GEN, one shilling.
OWT-GENS, two shillings.
ERTH-GENS, three shillings.

The GENS continue in the same sequence as the yeneps above, excepting THEG-GENS, 8*s.*, which is usually rendered THEG-GUY,—a deviation with ample precedents in all civilized tongues.

YENORK, a crown piece, or five shillings.
FLATCH-YENORK, half a crown.

Beyond this amount the costermonger reckons after an intricate and complicated mode. Fifteen

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shillings would be ERTH-EVIF-GENS, or, literally, 3 times 5*s.*; seventeen shillings would be ERTH-YENORK-FLATCH, or three crowns and a half; or, by another mode of reckoning, ERTH-EVIF-GENS-FLATCH-YENORK, *i. e.*, 3 times 5*s.*, and half a crown.

DUNOP, a pound.

Further than which the costermonger seldom goes in money reckoning.

In the following Glossary only those words are given which costermongers principally use,—the terms connected with street traffic, the names of the different coins, vegetables, fruit, and fish, technicalities of police courts, &c.

The reader might naturally think that a system of speech so simple as the BACK SLANG, would require no Glossary, but he will quickly perceive, from the specimens given, that a great many words in frequent use in a BACK sense have become so twisted as to require a little glossarial explanation.

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GLOSSARY

OF THE

BACK SLANG.

BIRK, a "crib,"—house.

COOL, to look.

COOL HIM, look at him. A phrase frequently used when one costermonger warns another of the approach of a policeman.

DAB, bad.

DABHENO, one bad, or a bad market. *See* DOOGHENO.

DAB TROS, a bad sort.

DA-ERB, bread.

DEB, or DAB, a bed; "I'm on to the DEB," I'm going to bed.

DILLO-NAMO, an old woman.

DLOG, gold.

DOOG, good.

DOOGHENO, literally "one-good," or "good-one," but implying generally a good market.

DOOGHENO HIT, one good hit. A coster remarks to a "mate," *Jack made a doogheno hit this morning*," implying that he did well at market, or sold out with good profit.

DUNOP, a pound.

ERTH, three.

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EARTH * GENS, three shillings.

EARTH SITH-NOMS, three months.

EARTH YANNOPS, or YENEPS, threepence.

EDGABAC, cabbage.

EDGENARO, an orange.

E-FINK, knife.

EKAME, a "make," or swindle.

EKOM, a "moke," or donkey.

ELRIG, a girl.

ENIF, fine.

ENIN GENS, nine shillings.

ENIN YENEP, ninepence.

ENIN YANNOPS, or YENEPS, ninepence.

ENO, one.

ERIF, fire.

ERTH GENS, three shillings.

ERTH-PU, three-up,—a street game.

ERTH SITH-NOMS, three months,—a term of imprisonment unfortunately very familiar to the lower orders.

ERTH-YENEPS, threepence.

ESCLOP, the police.

ES-ROPH, or ES-ROCH, a horse.

EVIF-YENEPS, five pence.

EVLENET GENS, twelve shillings.

EVLENET SITH-NOMS, twelve months.

EWIF-GENS, a crown, or five shillings.

* My informant preferred EARTH to ERTH,—for the reason, he said, "that it looked more sensible (?)"

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EWIF-YENEPS, fivepence.

EXIS GENS, six shillings.

EXIS-EWIF-GENS, six times five shillings, *i.e.* 30s. All monies may be reckoned in this manner, either with YENEPS or GENS.

EXIS-EVIF YENEPS, elevenpence,–literally, "6 pence and 5 pence = elevenpence." This mode of reckoning, distinct from the preceding, is also common amongst those who use the back slang.

EXIS SITH-NOMS, six months.

EXIS-YENEPS, sixpence.

FI-HEATH, a thief.

FLATCH, a half, or halfpenny.

FLATCH KEN-NURD, half drunk.

FLATCH YENEP, a halfpenny.

FLATCH-YENORK, half a crown.

GEN, twelvepence, or one shilling. Possibly an abbreviation of ARGENT, cant term for silver. See following.

GENERALIZE, a shilling, generally shortened to GEN.

GEN-NET, or NET GENS, ten shillings.

HEL-BAT, a table.

HELPA, an apple.

KENNETSEENO, stinking.

KENNURD, drunk.

KEW, a week.

KEWS, or SKEW, weeks.

KIRB, a brick.

KOOL, to look.

LAWT, tall.

LEVEN, in back slang, is sometimes allowed to stand for *eleven*, for the reason that it is a number which seldom occurs. An article is either 10d. or 1s.

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LUR-AC-HAM, mackarel.

MOTTAB, bottom.

MUR, rum.

NALE, or NAEL, lean.

NAM, a man.

NAMESCLOP, a policeman.

NAMOW, a woman; DILLO NAMOW, an old woman.

NEERGS, greens.

NETENIN GENS, nineteen shillings.

NEETEWIF GENS, fifteen shillings.

NEETEXIS, or NETEXIS GENS, sixteen shillings.

NETNEVIS GENS, seventeen shillings.

NET-THEG GENS, eighteen shillings.

NEETRITH GENS, thirteen shillings.

NEETROUF GENS, fourteen shillings.

NET-GEN, ten shillings, or half a sovereign.

NET-YENEPS, tenpence.

NEVELE GENS, eleven shillings.

NEVELE YENEPS, elevenpence,—generally LEVEN YENEPS.

NEVIS GENS, seven shillings.

NEVIS STETCH, seven years transportation, or imprisonment. *See* STRETCH, in the *Slang Dictionary*.

NEVIS YENEPS, sevenpence.

NIRE, rain.

NIG, gin.

NI-OG OT TAK-RAM, going to market.

NITRAPH, a farthing.

NOL, long.

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NOOM, the moon.

NOS-RAP, a parson.

OCCABOT, tobacco; "tib of OCCABOT," bit of tobacco.

ON, no.

ON DOOG, no good.

OWT GENS, two shillings.

OWT YENEPS, twopence.

PAC, a cap.

PINURT POTS, turnip tops.

POT, top.

RAPE, a pear.

REEB, beer.

REV-LIS, silver.

ROUF-EFIL, for life,—sentence of punishment.

ROUF GENS, four shillings.

ROUF-YENEPS, fourpence.

RUTAT, or RATTAT, a "tatur," or potato.

SAY, yes.

SEE-O, shoes.

SELOPAS, apples.

SHIF, fish.

SIR-ETCH, cherries.

SITH-NOM, a month.

SLAOC, coals.

SNEERG, greens.

SOUSH, a house.

SPINSRAP, parsnips.

SRES-WORT, trowsers.

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STARPS, sprats.

STOOB, boots.

STORRAC, carrots.

STUN, nuts.

STUNLAWS, walnuts.

SWRET-SIO, oysters.

TACH, a hat.

TAF, or TAFFY, fat.

THEG, or TEAICH GENS, eight shillings.

TEAICH-GUY, eight shillings,—a slight deviation from the numerical arrangement of GENS.

TENIP, a pint.

THEG YENEPS, eightpence.

TIB, a bit, or piece.

TOAC, or TOG, a coat. TOG is the *old cant* term. See *Dictionary of Slang, &c.*

TOAC-TISAW, a waistcoat.

TOL, lot, stock, or share.

TOP O' REEB, a pot of beer.

TOP-YOB, a pot boy.

TORRAC, a carrot.

TRACK (or TRAG), a quart.

TROSSENO, literally, "one-sort," but the costermongers use it to imply anything that is bad.

WAR-RAB, a barrow.

WEDGE, a Jew.

YAD, a day; YADS, days.

YADNAB, brandy.

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YENEP, a penny.

YENEP-A-TIME, penny each time,—term in betting.

YENEP-FLATCH, three halfpence,—all the halfpence and pennies continue in the same sequence.

YAP-POO, pay up.

YEKNOD, or JERK-NOD, a donkey.

YENORK, a crown.

YOB, a boy.

ZEB, best.

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SOME ACCOUNT OF THE

RHYMING SLANG,

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF

CHAUNTERS AND PATTERERS.

THERE exists in London a singular tribe of men, known amongst the "fraternity of vagabonds" as Chaunters and Patterers. Both classes are great talkers. The first sing or chaunt through the public thoroughfares ballads—political and humourous — carols, dying speeches, and the various other kinds of gallows and street literature. The second deliver street orations on grease-removing compounds, plating powders, high polishing blacking, and the thousand and one wonderful pennyworths that are retailed to gaping mobs from a London curb stone.

They are quite a distinct tribe from the costermongers; indeed, amongst tramps, they term them-

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selves the "harristocrats of the streets," and boast that they live by their intellects. Like the costermongers, however, they have a secret tongue or cant speech, known only to each other. This cant, which has nothing to do with that spoken by the costermongers, is known in Seven Dials and elsewhere as the RHYMING SLANG, *or the substitution of words and sentences which rhyme with other words intended to be kept secret.* The chaunter's cant, therefore, partakes of his calling, and he transforms and uses up into a rough speech the various odds and ends of old songs, ballads, and street nick-names, which are found suitable to his purpose. Unlike nearly all other systems of cant the rhyming slang is not founded upon allegory; unless we except a few rude similes, thus,—I'M AFLOAT is the rhyming cant for *boat*, ARTFUL DODGER signifies a *lodger*, and a SNAKE IN THE GRASS stands for a *looking-glass*,—a meaning that would delight a fat CHINAMAN, or a collector of Oriental proverbs. But, as in the case of the costers' speech and the old gipsey-vagabond cant, the chaunters and patterers so interlard this rhyming slang "with their general remarks, while their ordinary language is so smothered and sub-

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dued, that unless when they are professionally engaged and talking of their wares they might almost pass for foreigners."

From the enquiries I have made of various patterers and "paper workers," I learn that the rhyming slang was introduced about twelve or fifteen years ago. Numbering this class of oratorical and bawling wanderers at twenty thousand, scattered over Great Britain, including London and the large provincial towns, we thus see the number of English vagabonds who converse in rhyme and talk poetry,—although their habitations and mode of life constitute a very unpleasant Arcadia. These nomadic poets, like the other talkers of cant or secret languages, are stamped with the vagabond's mark, and are continually on the move. The married men mostly have lodgings in London, and come and go as occasion may require. A few never quit London streets, but the greater number tramp to all the large provincial fairs, and prefer the MONKERY (country) to town life. Some transact their business in a systematic way, sending a post office order to the Seven Dials printer, for a fresh supply of ballads or penny books, or to the SWAG SHOP, as the case may be,

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for trinkets and gewgaws, to be sent on by rail to a given town by the time they shall arrive there.

When any dreadful murder, colliery explosion, or frightful railroad accident has happened in a country district, three or four chaunters are generally on the spot in a day or two after the occurrence, vending and bawling "*A True and Faithful Account*," &c., which "true and faithful account" was concocted purely by the imaginations of the successors of Catnach and Tommy Pitts*, in the printing shops of Seven Dials. And but few fairs are held in any part of England without the patterer being punctually at his post, with his nostrums, or real gold rings (with the story of the wager laid by the gentleman—see FAWNEY BOUNCING, in the Dictionary), or save-alls for candlesticks, or paste which, when applied to the strop, makes the dullest razor keen enough to hack broom handles and sticks, and after that to have quite enough sharpness left for splitting hairs, or shaving them off the back of one of the clod-hoppers' hands, looking on in amazement. And CHEAP JOHN, too, with his coarse jokes, and no end of six-bladed

* The famous printers and publishers of sheet songs and last dying speeches thirty years ago.

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knives, and pocket-books containing information for every body, with pockets to hold money, and a pencil to write with in the bargain, and a van stuffed with the cheap productions of Sheffield and "Brummagem;"—he, too, is a patterer of the highest order, and visits fairs, and can hold a conversation in the rhyming slang.

Such is a rough description of the men who speak this jargon; and simple and ridiculous as the vulgar scheme of a rhyming slang may appear, it must be regarded as a curious fact in linguistic history. In order that the reader's patience may not be too much taxed, only a selection of rhyming words has been given in the Glossary,—and these for the most part, as in the case of the back slang, are the terms of everyday life, as used by this order of tramps and hucksters.

It must not be supposed, however, that the chaunter or patterer confines himself entirely to this slang when conveying secret intelligence. On the contrary, although he speaks not a "leash of languages," yet is he master of the beggars' cant, and is thoroughly "up" in street slang. The following letter, written by a chaunter to a gentleman who took an interest in his welfare, will show his capabilities in this line.

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Dear Friend,*

Excuse the liberty, since i saw you last i have not earned a thickun, we have had such a Dowry of Parny that it completely stumped or Coopered Drory the Bossmans Patter therefore i am broke up and not having another friend but you i wish to know if you would lend me the price of 2 Gross of Tops, Dies, or Croaks, which is 7 shillings, of the above mentioned worthy and Sarah Chesham the Essex Burick for the Poisining job, they are both to be topped at Springfield Sturaban on Tuesday next. i hope you will oblige

* The writer, a street chaunter of ballads and last dying speeches, alludes in his letter to two celebrated criminals, Thos. Drory the murderer of Jael Denny, and Sarah Chesham who poisoned her husband, accounts of whose Trials and "Horrid deeds" he had been selling. I give a glossary of the cant words.

Thickun, a crownpiece.
Dowry of Parny, a lot of rain.
Stumpted, bankrupt.
Coopered, spoilt
Bossman, a farmer.
*** Drory was a farmer.
Patter, trial.
Tops, last dying speeches.
Dies, *ib.*
Croaks, *ib.*
Burick, a woman,
Topped, hung.
Sturaban,
Quid, a sovereign.
James, *ib.*
Clye, a pocket.
Carser, a house or residence.
Speel on the Drum, to be off to the country.
All square, all right, or quite well.

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me if you can for it will be the means of putting a Quid or a James in my Clye. i will call at your Carser on Sunday Evening next for an answer, for i want to Speel on the Drum as soon as possible. hoping you and the family are All Square,

I remain Your Obedient Servant,

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GLOSSARY

OF THE

RHYMING SLANG.

ABRAHAM'S WILLING, a shilling.
ALACOMPAIN, rain.
ALL AFLOAT, a coat.
ANY RACKET, a penny faggot.
APPLE AND PEARS, stairs.
ARTFUL DODGER, a lodger.
ARTICHOKE RIPE, smoke a pipe.
BABY PAPS, caps.
BARNET FAIR, hair.
BATTLE OF THE NILE, a tile,—vulgar term for a hat.
BEN FLAKE, a steak.
BILLY BUTTON, mutton.
BIRCH BROOM, a room.
BIRD LIME, time.
BOB, MY PAL, a gal,—vulgar pronunciation of *girl.*
BONNETS SO BLUE, Irish stew.
BOTTLE OF SPRUCE, a deuce,—slang for twopence.

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BOWL THE HOOP, soup.

BRIAN O'LINN, gin.

BROWN BESS, yes—the affirmative.

BROWN JOE, no—the negative.

BULL AND COW, a row.

BUSHY PARK, a lark.

BUTTER FLAP, a cap.

CAIN AND ABEL, a table.

CAMDEN TOWN, a brown,—vulgar term for a halfpenny.

CASTLE RAG, a flag,—slang term for fourpence.

CAT AND MOUSE, a house.

CHALK FARM, the arm.

CHARING CROSS, a horse.

CHARLEY LANCASTER, a handkercher,—vulgar pronunciation of handkerchief.

CHARLEY PRESCOTT, waistcoat.

CHERRY RIPE, a pipe.

CHEVY CHASE, the face.

CHUMP (or CHUNK) OF WOOD, no good.

COW AND CALF, to laugh.

COVENT GARDEN, a farden,—Cockney pronunciation of farthing.

COWS AND KISSES, mistress, or missus—referring to the ladies.

CURRANTS AND PLUMS, thrums,—slang for threepence.

DAISY RECROOTS (so spelt by my informant of Seven Dials, he means, doubtless, *recruits*), a pair of boots.

DAN TUCKER, butter.

DING DONG, a song.

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DRY LAND, you understand.

DUKE OF YORK, take a walk.

EAST AND SOUTH, a mouth.

EAT A FIG, to "crack a crib,"—to break into a house, or commit a burglary.

EGYPTIAN HALL, a ball.

ELEPHANT'S TRUNK, drunk.

EPSOM RACES, a pair of braces.

EVERTON TOFFEE, coffee.

FANNY BLAIR, the hair.

FINGER AND THUMB, rum.

FLAG UNFURLED, a man of the world.

FLEA AND LOUSE, a bad house.

FLOUNDER AND DAB (two kinds of flat fish), a cab.

FLY MY KITE, a light.

FROG AND TOAD, the main road.

GARDEN GATE, a magistrate.

GERMAN FLUTES, a pair of boots.

GIRL AND BOY, a saveloy,—a penny sausage.

GLORIOUS SINNER, a dinner.

GODDESS DIANA (pronounced DIANER), a tanner,—sixpence.

GOOSEBERRY PUDDING (*vulgo* PUDDEN), a woman.

HANG BLUFF, snuff.

HOD OF MORTAR, a pot of porter.

HOUNSLOW HEATH, teeth.

I DESIRE, a fire.

I'M AFLOAT, a boat.

ISLE OF FRANCE, a dance.

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ISABELLA (vulgar pronunciation, ISABELLER), an umbrella.

I SUPPOSE, the nose.

JACK DANDY, brandy.

JACK RANDLE (a noted pugilist), a candle.

JENNY LINDER, a winder,—vulgar pronunciation of window.

JOE SAVAGE, a cabbage.

LATH AND PLASTER, a master.

LEAN AND LURCH, a church.

LINENDRAPER, paper.

LIVE EELS, fields.

LOAD OF HAY, a day.

LONG ACRE, a baker.

LONG ACRE, a newspaper. See the preceding.

LORD JOHN RUSSEL, a bustle.

LORD LOVEL, a shovel.

LUMP OF COKE, a bloak,—slang term for a man.

LUMP OF LEAD, the head.

MACARONI, a pony.

MAIDS A DAWNING (I suppose my informant means *maids adorning*), the morning.

MAIDSTONE JAILOR, a tailor.

MINCE PIES, the eyes.

MUFFIN BAKER, a quaker.

NAVIGATORS, taturs,—vulgar pronunciation of potatoes.

NAVIGATOR SCOT, baked potatoes all hot.

NEEDLE AND THREAD, bread.

NEVER FEAR, a pint of beer.

NIGHT AND DAY, go to the play.

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NOSE AND CHIN, a winn,—*ancient cant* for a penny.

NOSE-MY, backy,—vulgar pronunciation of tobacco.

OATS AND BARLEY, Charley.

OATS AND CHAFF, a footpath.

ORINOKO (pronounced ORINOKER), a poker.

OVER THE STILE, sent for trial.

PADDY QUICK, thick; or, a stick.

PEN AND INK, a stink.

PITCH AND FILL, Bill,—vulgar shortening for William.

PLATE OF MEAT, a street.

PLOUGH THE DEEP, to go to sleep.

PUDDINGS AND PIES, the eyes.

READ OF TRIPE(?), transported for life.

READ AND WRITE, to fight.

READ AND WRITE, flight. See preceding.

RIVER LEA, tea.

ROGUE AND VILLAIN, a shillin,—common pronunciation of shilling.

RORY O'MOORE, the floor.

ROUND THE HOUSES, trouses, — vulgar pronunciation of trousers.

SALMON TROUT, the mouth.

SHIP IN FULL SAIL, a pot of ale.

SIR WALTER SCOTT, a pot,—of beer.

SLOOP OF WAR, a whore.

SNAKE IN THE GRASS, a looking glass.

SORROWFUL TALE, three months in jail.

SPLIT ASUNDER, a costermonger.

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SPLIT PEA, tea.

SPORT AND WIN, Jim.

STEAM PACKET, a jacket.

ST. MARTINS-LE-GRAND, the hand.

STOP THIEF, beef.

SUGAR AND HONEY, money.

SUGAR CANDY, brandy.

TAKE A FRIGHT, night.

THREE QUARTERS OF A PECK, the neck,—in writing, expressed by the simple "¾."

THROW ME IN THE DIRT, a shirt.

TOMMY O'RANN, scran,—vulgar term for food.

TOM TRIPE, a pipe.

TOM RIGHT, night.

TOP JINT (vulgar pronunciation for joint), a pint,—of beer.

TOP OF ROME, home.

TURTLE DOVES, a pair of gloves.

TWO FOOT RULE, a fool.

WIND DO TWIRL, a fine girl.

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THE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OF

SLANG, CANT, AND VULGAR LANGUAGE;

OR A

LIST OF THE BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSULTED IN COMPILING THIS WORK,

COMPRISING NEARLY EVERY KNOWN TREATISE UPON THE SUBJECT.

SLANG has a literary history, the same as authorized language. Nearly one hundred works have treated upon the subject in one form or another,—a few devoting but a chapter, whilst many give up their entire pages to expounding its history and use. Old Harman, a worthy man, who interested himself in suppressing and exposing vagabondism in the days of good Queen Bess, was the first to write upon the subject. Decker followed fifty years afterwards, but helped himself, evidently, to his predecessor's labours. Shakespeare, Beaumont and Fletcher, Ben Jonson, and Brome, each employed beggars' cant as part of the machinery of their plays. Then came Head, (who wrote "The English Rogue," in 1680,) with a glossary of cant words "used by the Gipsies." But it was only a

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reprint of what Decker had given sixty years before. About this time authorized dictionaries began to insert vulgar words, labelling them "cant." The Jack Shepherds and Dick Turpins of the early and middle part of the last century made cant popular, and many small works were published upon the subject. But it was Grose, burly, facetious Grose, who, in the year 1785, collected the scattered glossaries of cant and secret words, and formed one large work, adding to it all the vulgar words and slang terms used in his own day. I am aware that the indelicacy and extreme vulgarity of the work renders it a disgrace to its compiler, still we must admit that it is by far the most important work which has ever appeared on street or popular language; indeed, from its pages every succeeding work has, up to the present time, drawn its contents. The great fault of Grose's book consists in the author not contenting himself with slang and cant terms, but the inserting of every smutty and offensive word that could be raked out of the gutters of the streets. However, Harman and Grose are, after all, the only authors who have as yet treated the subject in an original manner, or have written on it from personal enquiry.

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AINSWORTH's (William Harrison) Novels and Ballads. *London*, v. d.

A few of this author's novels, such as Rookwood and Jack Shepherd, abound in cant words, placed in the mouths of the highwaymen. The author's ballads, (especially "Nix my dolly pals fake away,") have long been popular favourites.

ANDREWS' (George) Dictionary, of the Slang and Cant Languages, Ancient and Modern, 12mo. *London*, 1809

A sixpenny pamphlet, with a coloured frontispiece representing a beggars' carnival.

A NEW DICTIONARY OF THE JAUNTING CREW, 12mo. N. D.

Mentioned by John Bee in the Introduction to his Sportsman's Slang Dictionary.

ASH's (John, LL.D.) New and Complete Dictionary of the English Language, 2 vols, 8vo. 1775

Contains a great number of cant words and phrases.

BACCHUS AND VENUS: or, a Select Collection of near 200 of the most Witty and Diverting Songs and Catches in Love and Gallantry, with Songs in the Canting Dialect, with a DICTIONARY, *explaining all Burlesque and Canting Terms*, 12mo. 1738

Prefixed is a curious woodcut frontispiece of a *Boozing Ken*. This work is scarce, and much prized by collectors. The Canting Dictionary appeared before, about 1710, with the initials B. E. on the title. It also came out afterwards, in the year 1751, under the title of the *Scoundrel's Dictionary*,—a mere reprint of the two former impressions.

BAILEY's (Nath.) Etymological English Dictionary, 2 vols, 8vo 1737

Contains a great many cant and vulgar words;—indeed, Bailey does not appear to have been very particular what words he inserted, so long as they were actually in use.

BANG-UP DICTIONARY, or the Lounger and Sportsman's Vade Mecum, containing a copious and correct Glossary of the Language of the Whips, illustrated by a great variety of original and curious Anecdotes, 8vo. 1812

A vulgar performance, consisting of pilferings from Grose, and made-up words with meanings of a degraded character.

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BARTLETT's Dictionary of Americanisms; a Glossary of Words and Phrases colloquially used in the United States, 8vo.
New York, 1848

It is a curious fact connected with slang that a great number of vulgar words common in England are equally common in the United States; and when we remember that America began to people two centuries ago, and that these colloquialisms must have crossed the sea with the first emigrants, we can form some idea of the antiquity of popular or street language. Many words owing to the caprices of fashion or society have wholly disappeared in the parent country, whilst in the colonies they are yet heard. The word SKINK, to serve drink in company, for instance, is still in use in the United States, although obsolete here.

BEAUMONT & FLETCHER's Comedy of *The Beggar's Bush*, 4to, 1661, or any edition.

Contains numerous cant words.

BEE's (Jon) Dictionary of the Turf, the Ring, the Chase, the Pit, the Bon Ton, and the Varieties of Life, forming the completest and most authentic Lexicon Balatronicum hitherto offered to the notice of the Sporting World, by Jon Bee [*i.e.* John Badcock], Esq., Editor of the Fancy, Fancy Gazette, Living Picture of London, and the like of that, 12mo. 1823

This author published books on Stable Economy in the name of Hinds. He was the sporting rival of Pierce Egan.

BEE's (Jon) Sportsman's Slang, a New Dictionary of Terms used in the affairs of the Turf, the Ring, the Chase, and the Cockpit; with those of Bon Ton and the Varieties of Life, forming a *Lexicon Balatronicum et Macaronicum*, &c., 12mo, *plate*. *For the Author*, 1825

The same as the preceding, only with an altered title. Both wretched performances, with forced and low wit.

BLACKGUARDIANA; or, Dictionary of Rogues, Bawds, &c., 8vo, WITH PORTRAITS [by *James Caulfield*]. 1795

This work, with a long and very vulgar title, is nothing but a reprint of *Grose*, with a few anecdotes of pirates, odd persons, &c., and some curious portraits inserted. It was concocted by Caulfield as a speculation, and published at *one guinea* per copy; and, owing to the remarkable title, and the notification at the bottom, that "only a few copies were printed," soon became scarce. For philological purposes it is not worth so much as any edition of Grose.

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BOXIANA, or Sketches of Modern Pugilism, by Pierce Egan (an account of the prize ring), 3 vols, 8vo. 1820

Gives more particularly the cant terms of pugilism, but contains numerous (what were then styled) "flash" words.

BRANDON. Poverty, Mendicity, and Crime; or, the Facts, Examinations, &c., upon which the Report was founded, presented to the Ho. of Lords by W. A. Miles, Esq., to which is added a *Dictionary of the Flash or Cant Language, known to every Thief and Beggar*, edited by H. Brandon, Esq., 8vo. 1839

A very wretched performance.

BROME's (Rich.) Joviall Crew; or the Merry Beggars. Presented in a Comedie at the Cockpit, in Drury Lane, in the Year 4to. 1652

Contains many cant words similar to those given by Decker,—from whom they were doubtless obtained.

BROWN's (Rev. Hugh Stowell) Lecture on Manliness, 12mo. 1857

Contains a few modern slang words.

BRYDGES' (Sir Egerton) British Bibliographer, 4 vols, 8vo. 1810—14

Vol ii, page 521, gives a list of cant words.

BUTLER's Hudibras, with Dr. Grey's Annotations, 3 vols, 8vo. 1819

CAMBRIDGE. Gradus ad Cantabrigiam; or, a Dictionary of Terms, Academical and Colloquial, or Cant, which are used at the University, *with illustrations*, 8vo. 18—

CANTING ACADEMY; or Villanies discovered, wherein are shewn the Mysterious and Villanous Practices of that Wicked Crew—Hectors, Trapanners, Gilts, &c., with several new Catches and Songs; also Compleat Canting Dictionary, 12mo, *frontispiece*. 1674

Compiled by Richard Head.

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CANTING; a Poem, interspersed with Tales and additional Scraps, post 8vo. 1814

A few words may be gleaned from this rather dull poem.

CANTING DICTIONARY; comprehending all the Terms, Antient and Modern, used in the several Tribes of Gypsies, Beggars, Shoplifters, Highwaymen, Foot Pads, and all other Clans of Cheats and Villains, with Proverbs, Phrases, Figurative Speeches, &c., to which is added a complete Collection of Songs in the Canting Dialect, 12mo. 1725

The title is by far the most interesting part of the work. A mere make-up of earlier attempts.

CAREW.—Life and Adventures of Bamfylde Moore Carew, the King of the Beggars, *with Canting Dictionary, portrait*, 8vo. 1791

There are numerous editions of this singular biography. The Canting Dictionary is nothing more than a filch from earlier books.

CHARACTERISMS, or the Modern Age Displayed; being an attempt to expose the Pretended Virtues of Both Sexes, 12mo (Part I., Ladies; Part II., Gentlemen.) *E. Owen*, 1750

An anonymous work, from which some curious matter may be obtained.

COTTON'S (Charles) Genuine Poetical Works, 12mo. 1771

Scarronides, or Virgil Travestie, being the first and fourth Books of Virgil's Æneis, in English Burlesque, 8vo, 1672, and other works by this author, contain numerous vulgar words now known as slang.

DECKER (Thomas) The Bellman of London; bringing to light the most notorious villanies that are now practised in the Kingdome, 4to, black letter. *London*, 1610

Watt says this is the first book which professes to give an account of the canting language of thieves and vagabonds. But this is wrong, as will have been seen from the remarks on Harman, who collected the words of the vagabond crew half a century before.

DECKER (Thomas) Lanthorne and Candle-light, or the Bellman's Second Night's Walke, in which he brings to light a brood of more strange villanies than ever were to this year discovered, 4to. *London*, 1608-9

This is a continuation of the former work, and contains the *Canter's Dictionary*, and has a frontispiece of the London Watchman with his staff broken.

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DECKER's (Thomas) Gulls Hornbook, 4to. 1609

"This work affords a greater insight into the fashionable follies and vulgar habits of Q. Elizabeth's day than perhaps any other extant."

DECKER's (Thomas) O per se O, or a new Cryer of Lanthorne and Candle-light, an Addition of the Bellman's Second Night's Walke, 4to, black letter. 1612

A lively description of London. Contains a Canter's Dictionary, every word in which appears to have been taken from Harman without acknowledgment. This is the first work that gives the Canting Song, a verse of which is inserted at page xxii of the Introduction. This Canting Song was afterwards inserted in nearly all Dictionaries of Cant.

DECKER's (Thomas) Villanies discovered by Lanthorne and Candle-light, and the Helpe of a new Cryer called O per se O, 4to. 1616

"With Canting Songs neuer before printed."

DECKER's (Thos.) English Villanies, eight several times prest to Death by the Printers, but still reviving again, are now the eighth time (as at the first) discovered by Lanthorne and Candle-light, &c., 4to. 1648

The eighth edition of the "*Lanthorne and Candle-light.*"

DICTIONARY of all the Cant and Flash Languages, both Ancient and Modern, 18mo. *Bailey*, 1790

DICTIONARY of all the Cant and Flash Languages, 12mo. *London*, 1797

DICTIONARY of the Canting Crew (Ancient and Modern), of Gypsies, Beggars, Thieves, &c., 12mo. N.D. [1700]

DICTIONNAIRE des Halle, 12mo. *Bruxelles*, 1696

This curious Slang Dictionary sold in the Stanley sale for £4 16s.

DUCANGE ANGLICUS.—The Vulgar Tongue: comprising Two Glossaries of Slang, Cant, and Flash Words and Phrases used in London at the present day, 12mo. 1857

A silly and childish performance, full of blunders and contradictions. A second edition appeared during the present year.

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DUNCOMBE's Flash Dictionary of the Cant Words, Queer Sayings, and Crack Terms now in use in Flash Cribb Society, 32mo, *coloured print.* 1820

DUNTON's Ladies' Dictionary, 8vo. *London,* 1694

Contains a few cant words.

EGAN.—Grose's Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, with the addition of numerous Slang Phrases, edited by Pierce Egan, 8vo. 1823

The best edition of Grose, with many additions, including a Life of the celebrated antiquarian.

EGAN's (Pierce) Life in London, 2 vols, thick 8vo, *with coloured plates by Geo. Cruikshank, representing high and low life.* 18—

Contains numerous cant, slang, sporting, and vulgar words, supposed by the Author to form the basis of conversation in life, high and low, in London.

GENTLEMAN's MAGAZINE, 8vo. N.D.

"In a very early volume of this parent magazine were given a few pages, by way of sample, of a Slang Vocabulary, then termed Cant. If, as we suspect, this part of the magazine fell to the share of Dr. Johnson, who was then its editor, we have to lament that he did not proceed with the design."—*John Bee in the Introduction to his Slang Dictionary,* 1825.

GENTLEMAN's MAGAZINE, vol. 92, p. 520.

Mention made of slang.

GROSE's (Francis, generally styled *Captain*) Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, 8vo. 1785

The much sought after FIRST EDITION, but containing nothing, as far as I have examined, which is not to be found in the *second* and *third* editions. As respects indecency, I find all the editions equally disgraceful. The Museum copy of the *First Edition* is, I suspect, Grose's own copy, as it contains numerous manuscript additions which afterwards went to form the second edition. Excepting the obscenities, it is really an extraordinary book, and displays great industry if we cannot speak much of its morality. It is the well from which all the other authors, Duncombe, Caulfield, Clarke, Egan, &c., &c., drew their vulgar lucubrations—without in the least purifying what they had stolen.

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HAGGART.—Life of David Haggart, alias John Wilson, alias Barney M'Coul, written by himself while under Sentence of Death, *curious frontispiece of the Prisoner in Irons*, intermixed with all the Slang and Cant Words of the Day, to which is added a Glossary of the same, 12mo. 1821

HALLIWELL's Archaic Dictionary, 2 vols, 8vo. 1855

An invaluable work, giving the cant words used by Decker, Brome, and a few of those mentioned by Grose.

HARLEQUIN Jack Shepherd, with a Night Scene in Grotesque Characters, 8vo. (*About* 1736)

Contains Songs in the *Canting* dialect.

HARMAN's (Thomas, Esq.) Caveat or Warening for Common Cursetors, vulgarely called Vagabones, set forth for the utilitie and profit of his naturall countrey, augmented and inlarged by the first author thereof; whereunto is added the tale of the second taking of the counterfeit Crank, with the true report of his behaviour and also his punishment for his so dissembling, most marvellous to the hearer or reader thereof, newly imprinted, 4to.

Imprinted at London, by H. Middleton, 1573

Contains the earliest Dictionary of the Cant language. Four editions were printed— William Griffith, 1566,
..... 1567,
..... 1567,
Henry Middleton, 1573.

What *Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* was to the authors of the earlier part of the present century, Harman's was to the Deckers, and Bromes, and Heads of the 17th.

HARRISON's (Wm.) Description of the Island of Britain (prefixed to Holinshed's Chronicle, 2 vols, folio. 1577

Contain an account of English vagabonds.

HAZLITT's (Wm.) Table Talk, 12mo (vol. 2 contains a chapter on *Familiar Style*, with a notice on *Slang Terms*.) V. D.

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HEAD's (Richard) English Rogue, described in the Life of Meriton Latroon, a Witty Extravagant, 4 vols, 12mo.
Frans. Kirkman, 1671-80

Contains a list of Cant words, evidently copied from Decker.

HELL UPON EARTH, or the most pleasant and delectable History of Whittington's Colledge, otherwise vulgarly called Newgate, 12mo. 1703

HENLEY's (John, *better known as* ORATOR HENLEY) Various Sermons and Orations. 1719—53

Contain numerous vulgarisms and slang phrases.

[HITCHING's (Chas., *formerly City Marshal, now a Prisoner in Newgate*)] Regulator; or, a Discovery of the Thieves, Thief-Takers, and Locks, alias Receivers of Stolen Goods in and about the City of London, also an Account of all the FLASH WORDS, *now in vogue amongst the Thieves, &c.*, 8vo, VERY RARE, *with a curious woodcut.* 1718

A violent attack upon Jonathan Wild.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS, No. 183, Sep. 24. 1853

Gives an interesting but badly digested article on slang; many of the examples are wrong.

JOHNSON's Dictionary, (the earlier editions). V.D.

Contains a great number of words italicised as *Cant*, low, or barbarous.

JONSON's (Ben) Masque of the Gipsies Metamorphosed, 4to. 161—

Contains numerous cant words.

KENT's (E.) Modern Flash Dictionary, containing all the Cant Words, Slang Terms, and Flash Phrases now in Vogue, 18mo, *coloured frontispiece.* 1825

L'ESTRANGE's (Sir Roger) Works, (principally Translations). V.D.

Abound in vulgar and slang phrases.

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LEXICON Balatronicum; a Dictionary of Buckish Slang, University Wit, and Pickpocket Eloquence, by a Member of the Whip Club, assisted by Hell-fire Dick, 8vo. 1811

One of the many reprints of *Grose's* second edition, put forth under a fresh, and what was then considered more attractive title. It was given out in advertisements, &c., as a piece of puff, that it was edited by a Dr. H. Clarke, but it contains scarcely a line more than Grose.

MAYHEW's (Henry) London Labour and London Poor, 3 vols, 8vo. 1851

An invaluable work to the inquirer into popular or street language.

MAYHEW's (Henry) Great World of London, 8vo. 1857

An unfinished work, but containing several examples of the use and application of cant and slang words.

MONCRIEFF's Tom and Jerry, or Life in London, a Farce in Three Acts, 12mo. 1820

An excellent exponent of the false and forced "high life" which was so popular during the minority of George IV. The farce had a run of a hundred nights, or more. It abounds in cant, and the language of "gig," as it was then often termed.

MORNINGS AT BOW STREET, by T. Wright, 12mo, *with illustrations by George Cruikshank.* *Tegg*, 1838

In this work a few etymologies of slang words are attempted.

NEW DICTIONARY of the Terms, Ancient and Modern, of the Canting Crew in its several tribes of Gypsies, Beggars, Thieves, Cheats, &c., with an addition of some *Proverbs, Phrases, Figurative Speeches, &c.*, by B. E. GENT, 12mo. N. D. [1710]

Afterwards issued under the title of *Bacchus & Venus*, 1737, and in 1754 as the *Scoundrel's Dictionary*.

NEW DICTIONARY of all the Cant and Flash Languages used by every class of offenders, from a Lully Prigger to a High Tober Gloak, sm. 8vo. 18—

Mentioned by John Bee.

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PARKER.—High and Low Life, A View of Society in, being the Adventures in England, Ireland, &c., of Mr. G. Parker, a *Stage Itinerant*, 2 vols in 1, thick 12mo.
Printed for the Author, 1781

A curious work, containing many cant words, with 100 orders of rogues and swindlers.

PARKER's (Geo.) Life's Painter of Variegated Characters, with a Dictionary of Cant Language and Flash Songs, to which is added a Dissertation on Freemasonry, *portrait*, 8vo. 1789

PEGGE's (Samuel) Anecdotes of the English Language, chiefly regarding the Local Dialect of London and Environs, 8vo. 1803-41

PERRY's (William) London Guide and Stranger's Safeguard, against Cheats, Swindlers, and Pickpockets, by a Gentleman who has made the Police of the Metropolis an object of enquiry twenty-two years (no wonder when the author was in prison a good portion of that time!) 1818

Contains a dictionary of slang and cant words.

PHILLIPS' New World of Words, folio. 1696

PICKERING's (F.) Vocabulary, or Collection of Words and Phrases which have been supposed to be peculiar to the United States of America, to which is prefixed an Essay on the present state of the English Language in the United States, 8vo. *Boston*, 1816

The remark made upon *Bartlett's Americanisms* applies equally to this work.

POTTER's (H. T.) New Dictionary of all the Cant and Flash Languages, both ancient and modern, 8vo, pp. 62. 1790

POULTER.—The Discoveries of John Poulter, alias Baxter, 8vo, 48 pages. (1770?)

At pages 42, 43, is an explanation of the "Language of Thieves, commonly called Cant."

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PRISON BREAKER, The, or the Adventures of John Shepherd, a Farce, 8vo. *Lond.*, 1725

Contains a Canting Song, &c.

PUNCH, or the London Charivari, V. D.

Often points out slang, vulgar, or abused words. It also, occasionally, employs them in jokes, or sketches of character.

RANDALL's (Jack, *the pugilist*) Scrap Book. 18—

I know nothing of this book other than that it is frequently mentioned by Moore, in *Tom Cribb's Memorial.*

SCOUNDREL's DICTIONARY, or an Explanation of the Cant Words used by Thieves, Housebreakers, Street-robbers, and Pickpockets about Town, with some curious dissertations on the Art of Wheedling, &c., *the whole printed from a copy taken on one of their gang, in the late scuffle between the watchmen and a party of them on Clerkenwell-green*, 8vo. 1754

A reprint of *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737.

SMITH's (Capt.) Compleat History of the Lives and Robberies of the most Notorious Highwaymen, Foot-pads, Shop-lifts, and Cheats, of both Sexes, in and about London and Westminster, 12mo, vol. I. 1719

This volume contains "THE THIEVES NEW CANTING DICTIONARY OF THE WORDS, PROVERBS, &C., USED BY THIEVES."

SMITH's (Capt.) Thieves Dictionary, 12mo. 1724

SPORTSMAN's DICTIONARY, 4to. 17—

By an anonymous author. Contains some low sporting terms.

SWIFT's coarser pieces abound in vulgarities and slang expressions.

THE TRIUMPH OF WIT, or Ingenuity display'd in its Perfection, being the Newest and most Useful Academy, Songs, Art of Love, *and the Mystery and Art of Canting, with Poems, Songs, &c., in the Canting Language*, 16mo. *J. Clarke*, 1735

What is generally termed a shilling *Chap Book.*

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THE TRIUMPH OF WIT, or the Canting Dictionary, being the Newest and most Useful Academy, containing the Mystery and Art of Canting, with the original and present management thereof, and the ends to which it serves and is employed, illustrated with Poems, Songs, and various Intrigues in the Canting Language, with the Explanations, &c., 12mo. *Dublin*, N.D.

A Chap Book of 32 pages, *circa* 1760.

TOM CRIBB's Memorial to Congress, with a Preface, Notes, and Appendix *by one of the Fancy* [Tom Moore, the poet], 12mo. 1819

A humourous poem, abounding in slang and pugilistic terms, with a burlesque essay on the classic origin of slang.

VACABONDES, The Fraternatye of, as well of ruflyng Vacabones, as of beggerly, of Women as of Men, of Gyrles as of Boyes, with their proper Names and Qualities, with a Description of the Crafty Company of Cousoners and Shifters, also the XXV. Orders of Knaves; otherwyse called a Quartern of Knaves, confirmed by Cocke Lorell, 8vo. 1575

Written by Harman.

VAUX's (Count de, *a swindler and a pickpocket*) Life, written by himself, 2 vols, *to which is added a Canting Dictionary.* 1819

These Memoirs were suppressed on account of the scandalous passages contained in them.

LONDON: PRINTED BY
BOWDEN AND BRAWN, 13, PRINCES STREET, LITTLE QUEEN STREET.

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151 B, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.

[Just published.]

A DICTIONARY OF

MODERN SLANG, CANT, and VULGAR WORDS, used at the present day in the Streets of London; the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; the Houses of Parliament; the Dens of St. Giles; and the Palaces of St. James: preceded by a HISTORY OF CANT AND VULGAR LANGUAGE *from the Time of Henry VIII., shewing its connection with the* GIPSEY TONGUE; with GLOSSARIES OF TWO SECRET LANGUAGES, *spoken by the Wandering Tribes of London, the Costermongers and the Patterers*; BY A LONDON ANTIQUARY; fcp. 8vo, *extra cloth,* WITH A CURIOUS WOODCUT, "**A Cadger's Map of a Begging District,**" *and explanation of* THE HIEROGLYPHICS USED BY VAGABONDS. 4*s.* 6*d.* 1859

"Rabble-charming words, which carry so much wild-fire wrapt up in them."—SOUTH.

This interesting work is an important contribution to popular philology, as it chronicles for the first time nearly THREE THOUSAND WORDS used by persons of every denomination in common conversation, MOST OF WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN NO ENGLISH DICTIONARY whatever. The origin of many cant and slang words is also traced.

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THE HISTORY OF PLAYING CARDS AND CARD-CONJURING.—**LES CARTES a JOUER et la CARTOMANCIE,** par P. Boiteau d'Ambly, 12mo, pp. 390, BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED AND ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY EXCEEDINGLY CURIOUS WOODCUTS, *half citron morocco, Roxburgh style.* 3*s.* 6*d.* 1859

One of the most amusing works on a very interesting subject that can be met with in these days of dry and insipid reading,—replete with anecdotes and valuable information.

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The CHOICEST JESTS of ENGLISH WITS; from the rude Jokes of the Ancient Jesters, to the refined and impromptu Witticisms of Theodore Hook and Douglas Jerrold. INCLUDING THE CREAM OF JOE MILLER: comprising the best Sayings, Facetious and Merry, which have contributed to give to our country the name of Merry England. 1859

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[Shortly will be published.]

OLD ENGLISH BALLADS, RELATING TO NEW ENGLAND, THE PLANTATIONS, AND OTHER PARTS OF NORTH AMERICA; WITH ANCIENT POETICAL SQUIBS ON THE PURITANS, AND THE QUAKERS WHO EMIGRATED THERE; now first collected from the original excessively rare Broadsides sold in the streets at the time, and edited with Explanatory Notes. *Illustrated with facsimiles of the very singular woodcuts which adorn the original Songs and Ballads.* Post 8vo. 1859

[Shortly will be reprinted.]

AN HITHERTO UNKNOWN POEM, WRITTEN BY JOHN BUNYAN, WHILST CONFINED IN BEDFORD JAIL, FOR THE SUPPORT OF HIS FAMILY, —ENTITLED:

PROFITABLE MEDITATIONS, Fitted to MAN'S DIFFERENT CONDITION; in a Conference between Christ and a Sinner. By JOHN BUNYAN, Servant to the Lord Jesus Christ. 4to.

London: Printed for Francis Smith at the Sign of the Elephant and Castle, without Temple Bar, 1661.

This very interesting, though melancholy literary memorial of the Author of the celebrated Pilgrim's Progress, will be choicely reprinted by Whittingham, from the only known copy lately discovered by the publisher. It will be edited, with an Introduction by George Offor, Esq. The impression will be limited.

[In preparation.]

The HISTORY of ENGLISH POPULAR LITERATURE, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF CHEAP OR CHAP-BOOKS; Penny and Sixpenny Histories, Old Romances, Fairy Tales, Books of Wonder, Garlands and Penny Collections of Ballads, Books of Recipes and Instruction, Jest Books, &c., WITH THE HISTORY OF THE TRACT SOCIETIES, SHEWING HOW OLD ENGLISH STORY-BOOKS, TOWARDS THE CLOSE OF THE LAST CENTURY, MERGED INTO RELIGIOUS AND INSTRUCTIVE TRACTS, ALSO THE HISTORY OF THE RISE OF CHEAP SERIAL LITERATURE. 8vo. 1859

This very important work will range with *Nisard's History of French Popular Literature*, 2 vols., Paris, 1854. It will be illustrated with numerous exceedingly curious woodcuts, many by FAIRHOLT, and several from the original blocks used by the old London Bridge and Aldermary Church Yard publishers.

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